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FROM THE EDITOR

WE are only a few months into the new year, but 2016 has already been a rollercoaster ride. The race to the White House is well on its way, proving to be one of the biggest (and possibly most embarrassing) political spectacles on earth. Who will be the next leader of the free world? How will it affect us all?

And as social technology advances, so does our lust for voyeurism. It is now possible to peep on friends on the other side of the planet with the click of a button. But, surprisingly, we are becoming more isolated. No longer do we need to leave our house or to make a call to chat with a friend. Gratification now comes in the form of a little box of light delivered straight to your iPhone. Swipe right. Swipe left. Double tap. No need to even leave the bed.

But maybe you yearn for more? Perhaps the digital world doesn't quite satisfy your more adventurous side. Perchance you feel the need to travel and experience something in person; to feel it, touch it, and smell it. And maybe you're after something a bit murkier? In this Travel Issue of Penthouse we take a look at Dark Tourism, an unusual place where the macabre and tourism find common ground. But don't worry, we've also got your guide to all things travel, style, and culture to keep you in the know and on top of your game, so you can be the best man you can be.

Enjoy…or just swipe left and keep it moving.

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THE NATURAL BEAUTY

PENTHOUSE

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Lover of life and wisdom.

EVENT PLANNER

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

25 MARCH

Van Nuys, California

Because there is no such thing as too much Pink Floyd, especially when lasers are included. Experience live visual music to Pink Floyd's Dark Side Of The Moon while everything is lit up with lasers at this intimate backstage studio environment. It's sure to be an amazing show, don't miss out.

AT THE DRIVE-IN

2 3 MARCH

The Fonda Theatre, Hollywood

After a short-lived reunion in 2012—including a performance at Coachella—the high-energy Texans are taking to the stage once again. This time around, the highly praised post-hardcore band will have new music in tow, their first album since 2000's Relationship of Command. So what exactly does At The Drive-In sound like in 2016? Find out when the band hits the Fonda with a benefit show for Smile Pediatric Therapy & Diagnostics.

THE SMASHING PUMPKINS

26 MARCH

Ace Hotel, Downtown

Hands down one of the greatest rock bands ever, how can we not get excited by the fact that they're touring? Not to mention their support is the one and only Liz Phair. It's good news all round, as it always is whenever Billy Corgan is involved.

COACHELLA

15 - 24 APRIL

Indio, California

It doesn't get any bigger than this. The beginning of the summer season is dominated by Coachella, and with good reason. The glitz and glamor of Los Angeles migrate east to the Indio desert for back to back weekends Including A$AP Rocky, Beach House, Cold War Kids, Disclosure, Grimes, M83, Run The Jewels, Skepta, Zedd and more - what started as a small electronic festival has transformed into one of the biggest festivals on the globe.

FLOATING POINTS

25 APRIL

Masonic Lodge at Hollywood Forever

Floating Points has been making waves around the world, and not just in electronic circles. It's the main recording alias of Sam Shepherd, British electronic music producer. Floating Points music has been described as elegant, cerebral, complex, lush and most of all incredible - which isn't surprising given the fact that Shepherd has a PHD in neuroscience. He is also the co-founder of Eglo Records and the first artist to release on the label. Classically trained from a young age, Shepherd also leads the 16-piece Floating Points Ensemble - he really is non stop. Catch Floating Points at Masonic Lounge this April for a once-in-a-lifetime cerebral experience.

KATT WILLIAMS: CONSPIRACY THEORY

9 APRIL

Verizon Center, Washington, D.C.

"Aspirin is perfectly legal, but if you take 13 of them motherf***ers, it'll be your last headache." Comedian, actor and rapper Katt Williams will perform at the Verizon Theatre this April as part of his 100-city tour. A certified comic, Williams is a total all rounder, known for his highly original stand up which covers anything from drugs and pimps, to music, psychology and everything in between. He's one of the biggest personalities in the world of stand up comedy and you can catch him this April.

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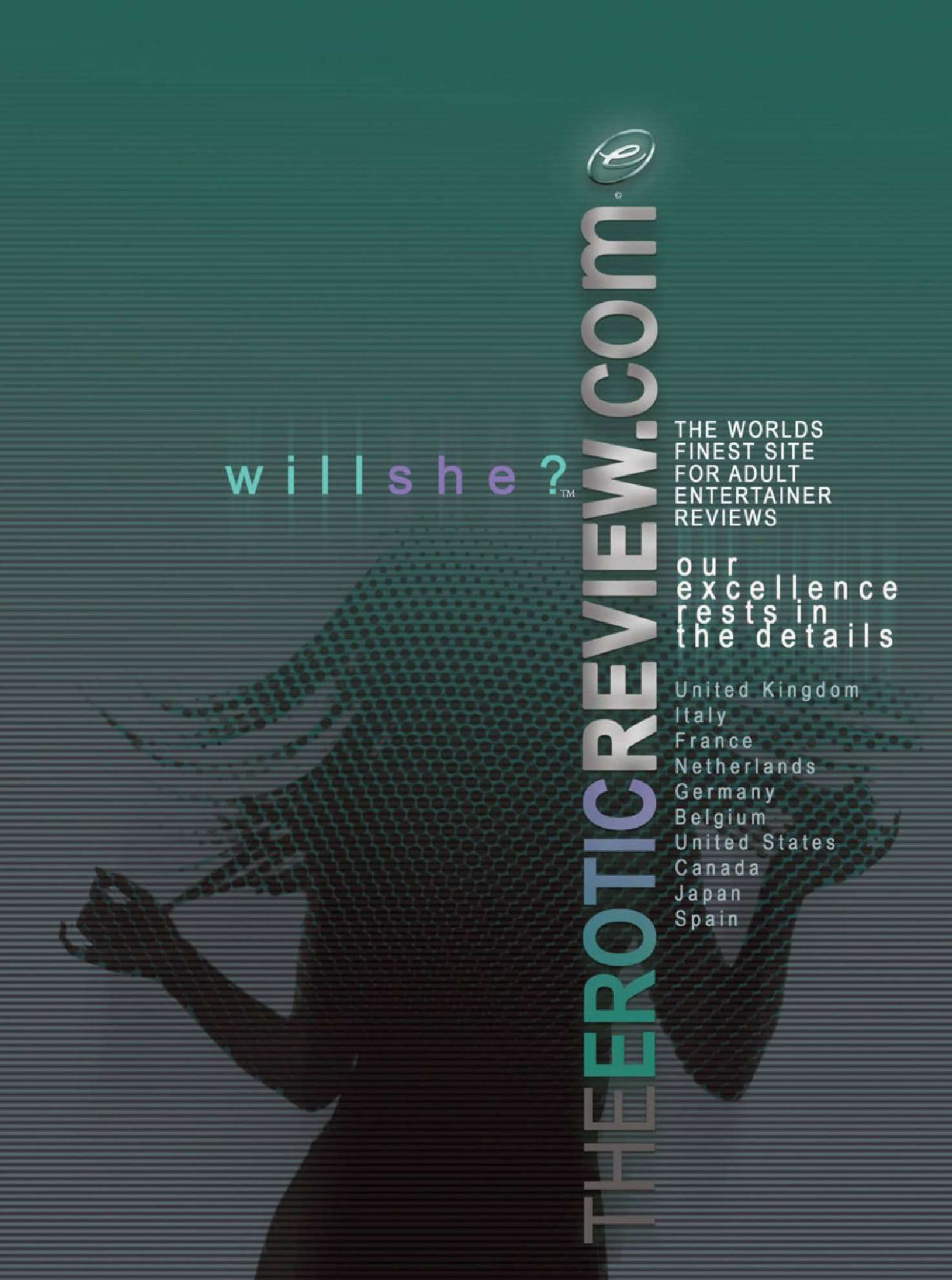

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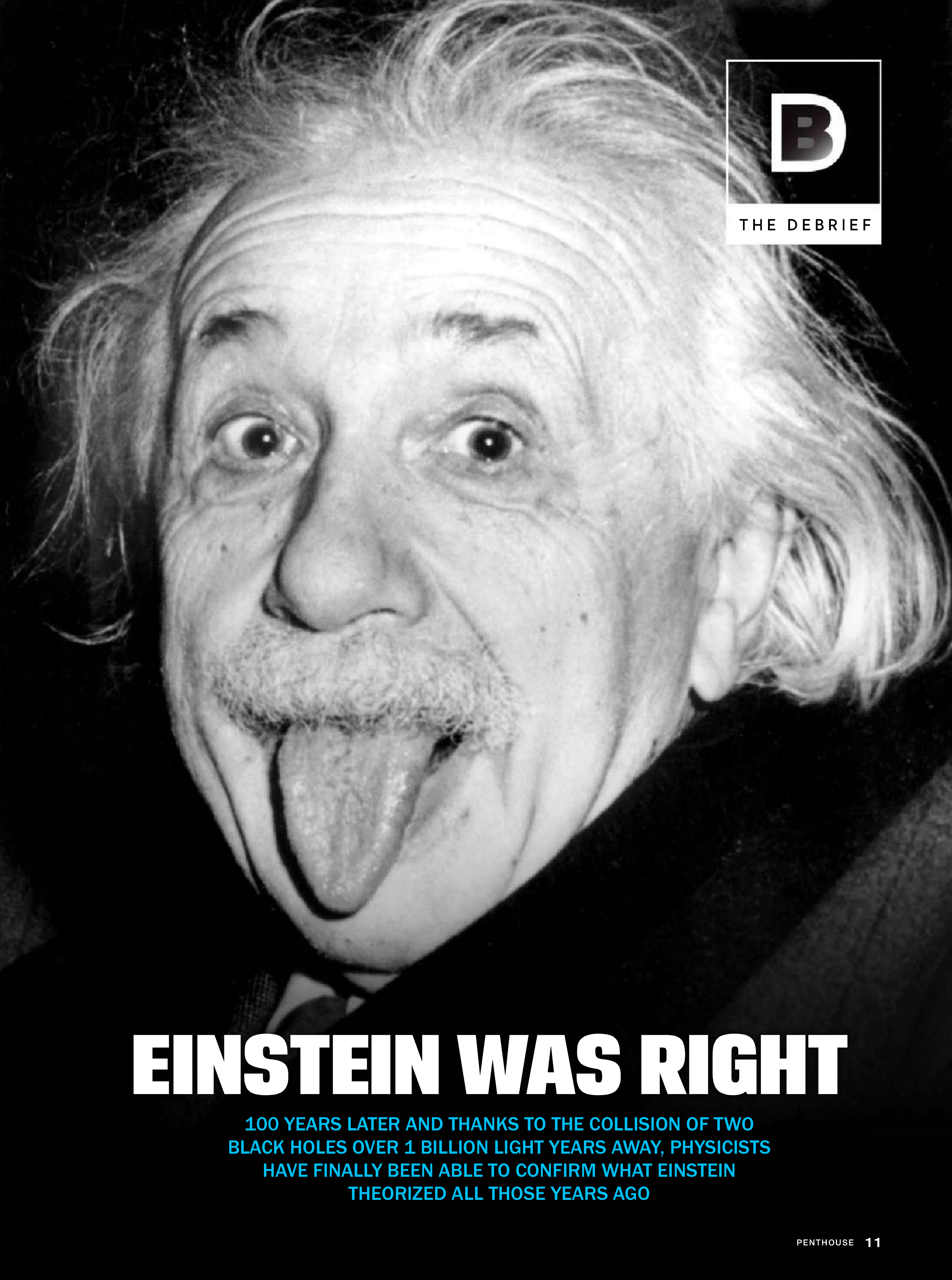


EINSTEIN WAS RIGHT

100 YEARS LATER AND THANKS TO THE COLLISION OF TWO BLACK HOLES OVER 1 BILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY, PHYSICISTS HAVE FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM WHAT EINSTEIN THEORIZED ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

EINSTEIN'S GRAVITATIONAL WAVES ARE REAL

AFTER more than 100 years of searching, an international team of physicists has confirmed the existence of Einstein's gravitational waves. It is one of the biggest astrophysical discoveries of the past century.

"We have detected gravitational waves," Prof David Reitze, executive director of the LIGO project, told journalists at a news conference in Washington DC.

The discovery, which is a culmination of decades of searching, marks a monumental breakthrough in our quest to fully understand the nature of gravity. The discovery was made possible through collaboration between a number of labs around the world that use laser fired through tunnels to sense ripples in the fabric of space-time. The waves which they detected were just a fraction of an atom in width.

"Gravitational waves are akin to sound waves that travelled through space at the speed of light," says gravitational researcher David Blair from the University of Western Australia. "Up to now, humanity has been deaf to the universe. Suddenly we know how to listen. The Universe has spoken and we have understood."

WHERE DID THE GRAVITATIONAL WAVES COME FROM?

The physicists were able to trace a signal which came from the merger of two black holes over a million years ago. The event was so massive that it warped space time enough so that the ripples could reach us, over one billion light years away. The merger radiated three times the mass of the sun in pure gravitational energy.

MAN DIES TRYING TO SWALLOW WHOLE CHEESEBURGER

And it has come to that point ladies and gentleman. The burger phenomenon has hit a cheesy low after one man choked to death when he tried to swallow a whole cheeseburger in one bite while drinking at a friend's house.

He apparently told his friends to "Watch this," before folding and stuffing the entire cheeseburger into his mouth...

It's a sober reminder that no matter how tasty, cheeseburgers are dangerous and can kill you if not eaten responsibly.

YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF FILTHY HAND SNIFFERS

If someone told you that after shaking someone's hand, they had to smell their own hand, what would you say to them? You would probably avoid any further contact with that person, right? Well I'm sorry to say, but according to scientific research into the matter, you and everyone else is guilty of doing that exact thing, you filthy hand sniffer.

A new scientific study has revealed that people unconsciously sniff their right hand after shaking it with others as part of a process to pick up chemical signals about others. "We started looking at people and noticed that afterwards, the hand somehow inadvertently reached the face," says Noam Sobel of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot.

To find out if people were really smelling their hands, as opposed to scratching their nose, his team filmed 153 volunteers as they greeted members of their team. Some were wired up to psychological instruments that would record airflow to the nose, taking the necessary measurements.

Charles Wysocki at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia agrees, "It fits with the general idea that there is a lot more chemical communication going on that we are unaware of".

So don't worry, it's not like you're doing it on purpose, unless you're former Australian Politician Troy Buswell who admitted to sniffing the chair of a female Liberal Party staffer way back in 2008. Pick up any useful signals Troy?

YOU CAN NOW SELL AIR

Yes, you read the headline correctly. People are now farming air and selling it to clients in polluted cities, who are paying upward of $160 for a single jar. The product is "cultivated" by, wait for it… Air farmers.

The air is collected from specific areas under a certain set of circumstances, depending on the client's wishes, "sometimes we'll be at the top of mountain, other times at the bottom of a valley". Whilst other people want "air collected when it's very windy, some people want still night air."

China have been massive consumers of clean air, buying their canisters from Canadian company Vitality Air. Their website reads: "Vitality Air strives towards providing its customers with fresh, clean, portable, canned air and recreational oxygen in a can for breathing and enhancing health."

You can choose from Banff Air, Lake Louise Air or premium oxygen in either single or twin packs. A single 3L canister of Banff Air will cost you $20 and provides "approximately 80 breaths of fresh Banff Air."

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

DROP EVERYTHING AND INVEST IN THIS

Germany, a country known for world firsts, has just dropped an absolute humdinger. German scientists have just switched on the largest nuclear fusion machine in the world. Cool, but what does it do? Well, it produces large amounts of hydrogen plasma… Duh. Only joking, we don't actually expect you to know what it does.

The invention itself could literally change the world as we know it. And apart from having an awesome name (The Wendelstein 7-X stellarator), it also has the ability to produce hydrogen plasma which is similar to harnessing the limitless energy of the sun. No, not like they did in *The Force Awakens*.

Basically, we'll have the ability to replace polluting fossil fuels and nuclear fission facilities. "It's a very clean source of power, the cleanest you could possibly wish for," physicist John Jelonnek from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, told the Associated Press. "We're not doing this for us, but for our children and grandchildren."

WIFE CRASHES HER OWN FUNERAL, HORRIFIES HUSBAND

Yes, you read it right. A woman has crashed her own funeral and scared the shit out of her husband who, understandably, thought she was dead - why else would he be having a funeral after all?

The details? He paid three hitmen to have her killed. They kidnapped her, drove her to a remote location and tied her up. Before killing her they asked, "What have you done to your husband for him to want to kill you?" Apparently her answer was pretty convincing, because they soon dropped her off on the side of a road and told her to "warn other women" so this doesn't happen. Fast forward a few days and old hubby is "mourning" at the funeral, when, out of nowhere appears his wife, still very much alive.

"Is it my eyes?" she recalled him saying. "Is it a ghost?"

"Surprise! I'm still alive!" she replied.

The man, who we can only assume is now her ex-husband, was visibly terrified. "I'm sorry for everything," he wailed. We bet you are, buddy. We bet you are.

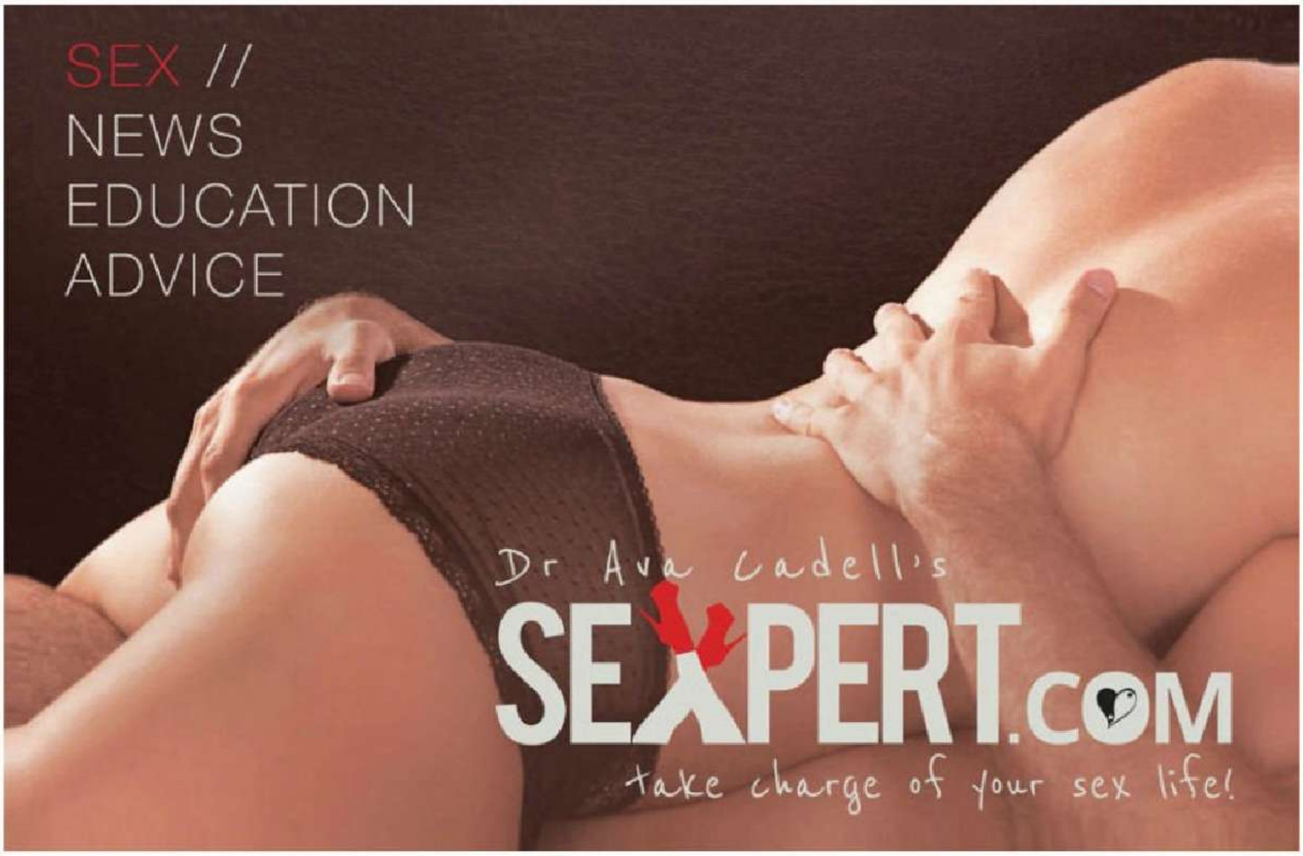
MICHIGAN SENATE PASSES BILL OUTLAWING ORAL AND ANAL SEX

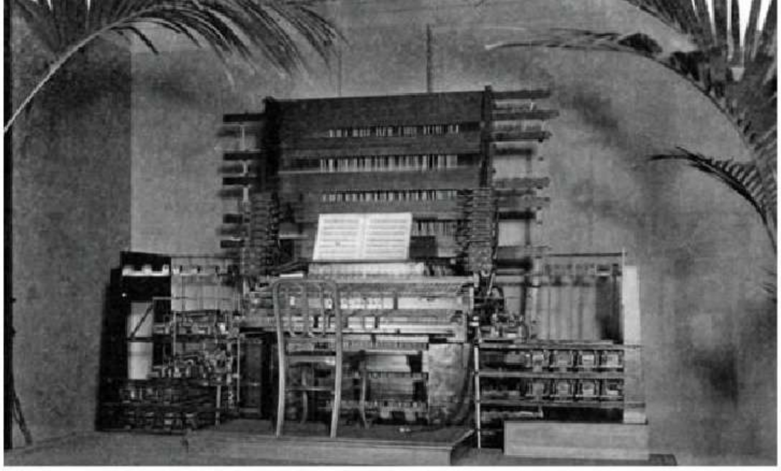
Michigan has just passed a bill which makes gay sex punishable by up to 15 years in prison. The bill, which puts sodomy on a level with bestiality, bans all forms of anal and oral sex–making it technically illegal to express homosexuality sexually.

"A person who commits the abominable and detestable crime against nature with mankind or with any animal is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for no more than 15 years," states the legislation.

Considering we get bent over by politicians on the regular, this bill should come as no surprise, however it is still a total load of shit. But don't despair! Even if you can't express your sexuality in Michigan, you can still do the following in other states of the U.S.:

- **Marry your cousin**
- **Have sex with some animals**
- **Eat another human being**
- **Throw rocks**





THE FIRST MUSIC STREAMING SERVICE STARTED IN 1897

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there existed no mobile phones, computers or internet. In what must've been a dark time for humanity, people were left to their own devices–such as their brains–and books to entertain themselves.

And then in 1876, the telephone was invented, and the first words ever transmitted "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you", by Alexander Bell, the inventor of the telephone. Raunchy stuff.

Then in 1897, the telharmonium was invented by lawyer Thaddeus Cahill. The 'Spotify' of 1897 utilized existing phone networks, broadcasting from a central hub in midtown Manhattan, to hotels, restaurants and homes around the city. Subscribers could pick up their phone, ask the operator to connect them to the telharmonium, and the wires of their phone line would be linked with the wires emerging from the telharmonium station. However, far from the automated, digital services of today, the music had to be manually generated.

If one were to venture to the music plant, or teleharmonium hall as it was known, one would find 200 tons of machinery (necessary to generate the tunes), as well as humans, who were required to play the specialized keyboards which generated the tunes.

"Apparently he had two players playing continuously, 24 hours a day," says Andy Cavatorta, a telharmonium enthusiast and sound artist who designed and built Bjork's gravity harps. "It was a sort of weird, non-stop eerie telharmonium music, including a lot of pieces that were composed just for the instrument." You could expect to hear symphonies, lullabies or other music, at the will of the players.

QR CODE ON KETCHUP BOTTLE LINKED TO HARDCORE PORN SITE

Talk about saucy, Heinz was left red-faced after a QR code on Its ketchup bottle led one man, Daniel Korell, to a hardcore porn site instead of the 'design your own bottle' competition page that he was trying to access.

The incident occurred after the original competition, held between 2012 and 2014 expired, and so too the website. The URL has since been picked up by German porn website Fundorado and the site once owned by Heinz was replaced with porn.

Korell wrote on his Facebook page: "Your ketchup really isn't for underage people."

Heinz's social media team apologized and responded on Korell's Facebook image: "We really regret the event very much and we're happy to take your suggestions for how we implement future campaigns on board."

Fundorado, looking to capitalize on the situation and pick up some free advertising, also commented on the photo, and offered Korell a year's free subscription.

HEINZ
TOMATO KETCHUP
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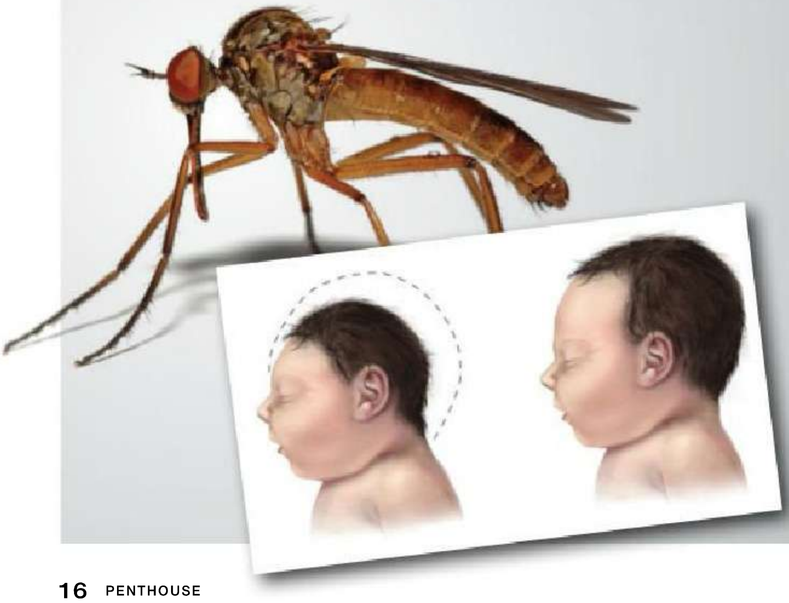
BABIES ARE BEING BORN WITH ABNORMALLY SMALL HEADS



As if you needed another reason to dislike mosquitoes, well, you just got one. Those things that make you slap yourself, break out the Citronella or lose a night's sleep because you *just can't find the damn thing*, have started spreading Zika, a mosquito-borne virus.

If you're an adult, you don't have too much to worry about, unless you're pregnant. If contracted and passed onto an unborn child, Zika can result in abnormally small heads in newborns and is associated with other disorders such as decreased brain function. And you thought itchy bites were bad, think again.

Zika was first identified in rhesus monkeys in the Zika forest in Uganda in 1947. Five years later it was found in humans. The disease has now spread through most of the Americas.

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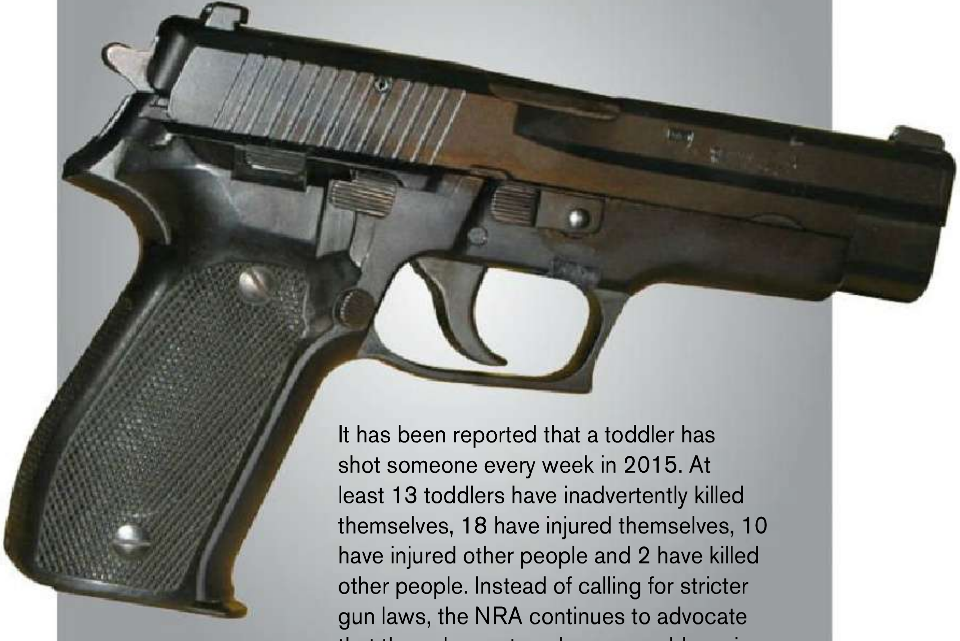
GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE, TODDLERS KILL PEOPLE



It has been reported that a toddler has shot someone every week in 2015. At least 13 toddlers have inadvertently killed themselves, 18 have injured themselves, 10 have injured other people and 2 have killed other people. Instead of calling for stricter gun laws, the NRA continues to advocate that the only way to solve gun problems is with more guns. Go figure.

PASTOR STEALS $36 MILLION, FUNDS WIFE'S RAP CAREER

A pastor of a 'mega-church' in Singapore, along with six others, stole $36 million dollars in donations to help fund his wife's global rap career which would then be used to spread the word of God. Sound suspicious? It is.

Known professionally as Sun Ho, she founded the church with her husband in 1989. Obviously things have been going pretty well for the church, not so well for Sun Ho's singing career which has seen her collaborate with the likes of Wyclef Jean. Unsurprisingly, some of her YouTube videos have become popular since the scandal broke, with over a million views on some.

And just to top it off, it is alleged that they used $20 million dollars of the embezzled money to try and cover up the fact that they had stolen any money in the first place. Can I get a 'praise the Lord'?

ANESKET
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WHAT DO K-HOLES AND DEPRESSION HAVE IN COMMON?

Ever been in a deep hole that you just don't think you can climb out of? Yep, we've all been there K-Holes. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, a K-Hole is the slang term for a profound out-of-body experience you get after consuming a high dose of ketamine.

What you might not know is that Ketamine, aka 'Special K', or 'K', is now being used to treat severe cases of depression with an 80% success rate. That is simply amazing.

The discovery is being touted as the most significant advance in medical history in 50 years. Now if we could drop the 'war on drugs' so that we can continue to move forward without hindering such promising progress.

SCIENTISTS TEST MDMA ON MONKEYS

Oh, were we talking about drugs? A group of scientists have injected three male, Long Tailed Macaques with MDMA to get a better understanding of how their brains work. They found that when injected with MDMA, the monkeys become more social, foraged more and also relaxed - a lot. No raving or dance parties were reported.

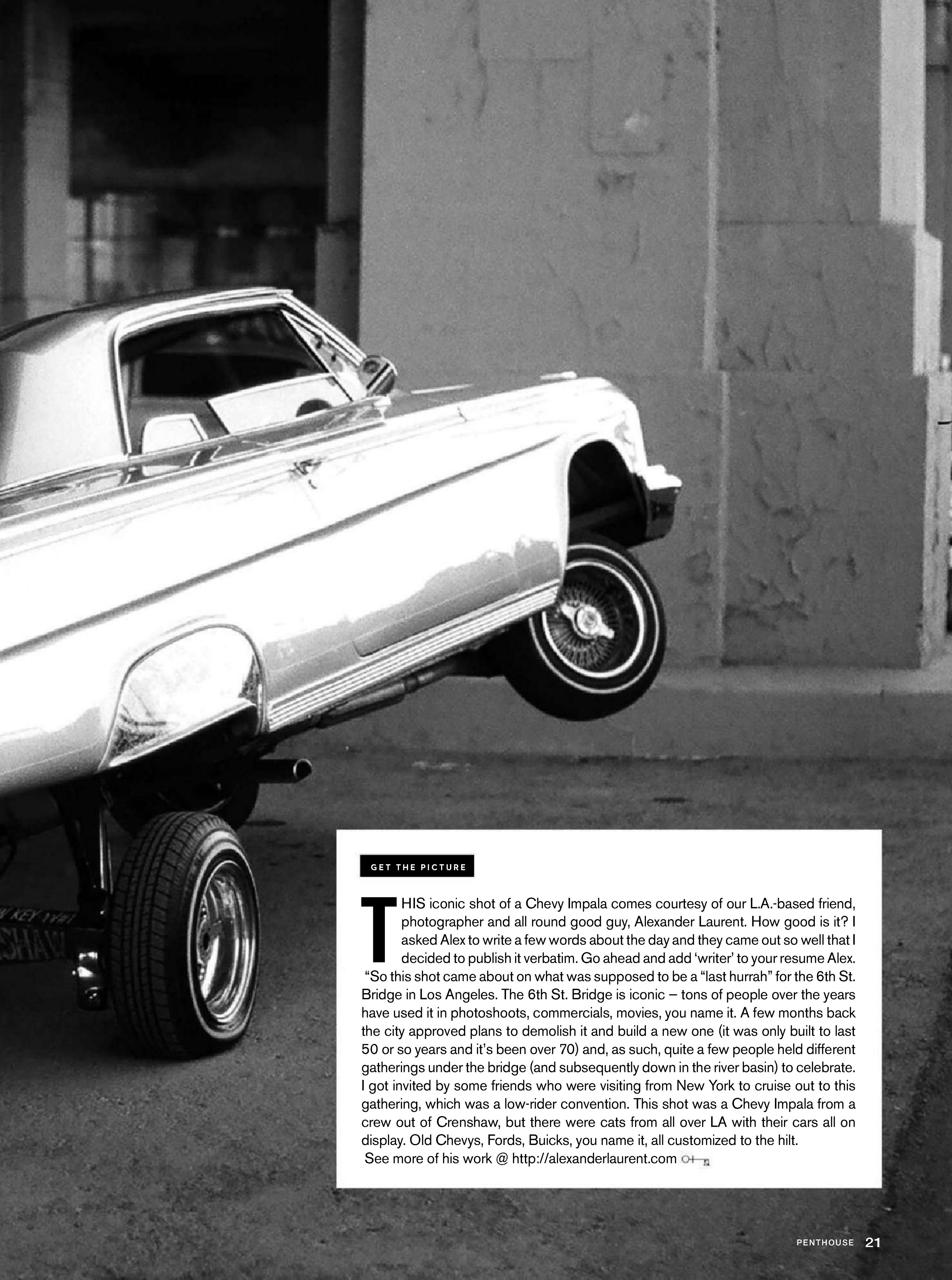
NESTLE CONTINUES TO BE EVIL

Nestlé
ДОМ
KitKat
В РОССИИ

In what comes as a surprise to nobody, anywhere, under any circumstance, Nestle has reconfirmed their reputation as the 'bad guy' after they were found using child labor on their supply chains in Thailand. Suitably enough, they were also fighting a child labor lawsuit in the Ivory Coast at the same time. It's difficult vying for the world's most evil corporation, however, Nestle is clearly prepared to have a crack (and not a break), as their Kit Kat would have you believe.

Jokes aside, children younger than 15 continue to work at sites connected to Nestle, decades after they promised to put an end to it. According to The Guardian, we've all been buying "products tainted with the blood and sweat of poor, unpaid and abused migrant workers". I know what you're thinking – tasty, right?

CRENSHAW
California



GET THE PICTURE

THIS iconic shot of a Chevy Impala comes courtesy of our L.A.-based friend, photographer and all round good guy, Alexander Laurent. How good is it? I asked Alex to write a few words about the day and they came out so well that I decided to publish it verbatim. Go ahead and add 'writer' to your resume Alex.

"So this shot came about on what was supposed to be a "last hurrah" for the 6th St. Bridge in Los Angeles. The 6th St. Bridge is iconic – tons of people over the years have used it in photoshoots, commercials, movies, you name it. A few months back the city approved plans to demolish it and build a new one (it was only built to last 50 or so years and it's been over 70) and, as such, quite a few people held different gatherings under the bridge (and subsequently down in the river basin) to celebrate. I got invited by some friends who were visiting from New York to cruise out to this gathering, which was a low-rider convention. This shot was a Chevy Impala from a crew out of Crenshaw, but there were cats from all over LA with their cars all on display. Old Chevys, Fords, Buicks, you name it, all customized to the hilt.

See more of his work @ http://alexanderlaurent.com

CRUSH

MARGOT ROBBIE

WE have a massive crush on Margot Robbie. She is incredible. She's an Australian actress who got her first TV break in a local soap opera.

She starred in 'The Wolf Of Wall Street' where, during the audition, she slapped co-star Leo DiCaprio. That impressed him and helped land the role. You go girl. She played Ann Burden in 'Z for Zacharia' and she's appearing in 'Legend Of Tarzan' later this year. But what we're really excited for is her role in 'Suicide Squad,' where she'll play dangerous super villain Harley Quinn. What a dream girl!

You're welcome to come say 'hi' at the office any time, Margot.

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THE RENAISSANCE MAN

MEET THE MAN WHO WANTS TO COLONIZE MARS AND REVOLUTIONIZE THE WAY YOU TRAVEL.

READING through a list of Elon Musk's achievements can be an intimidating exercise. Mars bound rockets, futuristic cars, the Hyperloop–he has done (and is doing so much) that it almost makes you feel bad. Then you remember that this guy is making it possible to build human colonies on Mars – and suddenly you don't feel so bad anymore.

We are told that we all have it in us to do incredible things. It is true that we seem to have a drive to make an impact, to alter our environment, to leave a legacy that is as innate as our drive for food, sex and shelter. We all do our best, and in our own way we leave the world a little different (and hopefully better) than the way we found it. This peculiar instinct of ours separates us from the rest of the animal kingdom – it makes us special. Elon Musk is the embodiment of that drive – he is a rare mix of talent, passion and brains that culminate in truly world changing ways.

After making a fortune as the major shareholder and founder of PayPal, Musk turned his sights to bigger things. Much bigger things. Not content with simply being a multi-millionaire Silicon Valley investor, Musk decided to focus his ambitions on space. Initially, his plan was to buy rockets from a Russian rocket manufacturing company and use them to propel a greenhouse, stuffed with crops, onto the surface of Mars. This, he felt, would encourage the public to become passionate about space travel once again.

THE HYPERLOOP IS BASICALLY THE SAME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT GEORGE USES TO GET TO AND FROM WORK IN THE JETSONS

After arguing over the high price tag and being mocked by the Russian's rocket scientists, Musk went home empty handed and unimpressed. On the plane ride back to the U.S, Musk got thinking. He realized that the raw materials needed to make rockets could be acquired for a fraction of the sales price, and so he invested a huge portion of his money into founding SpaceX – a rocket manufacturing company with the long-term goal of creating a 'true spacefaring civilisation'.

It should be understood that investing in rocket technology is usually the realm of governments, not private entities. Unsurprisingly, rockets are very expensive to manufacture and while colonizing Mars is a very cool idea – it isn't exactly bringing in a lot of dollars just yet. As a consequence, Musk almost experienced financial doom in 2008, after his electric car company, Tesla, was failing to make cheap, reliable vehicles and three SpaceX rockets had failed to launch. Again, one has to really respect the man's belief in his own vision and his ability to see it through to the end; when his companies began to fail, Musk invested the remainder of his millions into Space X, leaving him and his family broke, having to rely on loans from friends to get by. Thankfully, in a fateful turn of events, NASA awarded SpaceX a $1.6 billion contract. This event was not only a windfall for Musk, but for the rest of humanity. Whilst he is firmly focused on aiding NASA ferry astronauts to and from the International Space Station – his ultimate goal is to develop technology that will lead human-kind to colonize Mars.

His lofty ambitions to launch humanity into the space age aside, Musk is also working out our problems a little closer to home. His electric car company, Tesla, has already successfully created a run of successful, commercially electric cars. For decades, electric cars have been seen as a pipe dream - either not fast enough or not efficient enough. Musk has proven this assumption completely wrong. The stylish vehicles are designed to run on Musk's Supercharger network, where Tesla owners can speed charge their cars for free. The cars also come with a few features for the geekily inclined – a Bioweapon Defense button that filters air inside the car to medical standard (a feature that Musk only half-jokingly says could be utilized in the event of a zombie apocalypse) and a Ludicrous Speed button, which will jack the cars acceleration to do zero to sixty in 2.8 seconds.

The most recent development from Musk's mind is definitely the most far-out. The Hyperloop is basically the same transportation system that George uses to get to and from work in 'The Jetsons.' Musk came up with idea while stuck in traffic one day and became so excited that he shot his mouth off in an interview, claiming that the Hyperloop would one day be the 'fifth mode of transport.' The idea was met with obvious skepticism, which was blown out of the water when Musk published a paper detailing exactly how the Hyperloop might work. There was some initial criticism; however, overwhelmingly the idea has been received well. Well, enough that there are already two companies with hundreds of employees attempting to turn Musk's vision into a reality.

MUSIC

BLANK REALM

DANIEL Spencer says his band writes songs together, getting in a room and capturing the final version on perhaps the fifth take. "We usually don't play it through too many times before we record it because it kind of loses that energy."

It's surprising to hear Blank Realm can achieve their precise, hypnotic repetition with such a spontaneous process. This rare ability comes from playing together since 2006, and from their members being siblings Daniel, Sarah and Luke Spencer, along with childhood friend Luke Walsh.

They began as an experimental, avant-garde pop group, playing in warehouses, house shows, and the windows of small art galleries in Brisbane. Their shift from improvised noise to more conventional rock n' roll saw them emerge to minor prominence with Go Easy in 2013. Grassed Inn followed in 2014 and was shortlisted for the Australian Music Prize.

Simply, there is no other band like them in Australia. Their style is wild and high energy, a whirlwind of krautrock disco. We hear melodic echoes of The Go Betweens and The Triffids, driven along by guitar, bass, keytar synths and deadbeat call and response vocal harmonies between Sarah and Daniel.

Their live show is renowned for whipping audiences into a frenzy with never-ending dance rhythms and psychedelic freak-outs. Daniel's simplistic drumming is key. He readily admits that he's not really a drummer. With abilities limited to just a few patterns, they fall into mesmeric loops that lend power to the guitar lines of Luke Walsh.

Illegals In Heaven dropped in early 2015, and the singles River Of Longing and Palace Of Love have added new power to BR's oeuvre of festival anthems. The album is their most celebrated to date, and garnered a second consecutive nomination for Double J Australian Artist Of The Year.

Blank Realm spent much of 2015 touring the United States and Europe, following a surreal appearance at Glastonbury Festival in the UK in 2014. Daniel told me the band loved the medieval atmosphere of being in the general area of Stonehenge. "I think it was about 5pm and we were on a smaller stage. But it rained heaps which helped to get people into the dance. I think the band after us was like a Smiths cover band and they had a much bigger crowd. It was fun."

Revered heroes in their hometown of Brisbane, in earlier days there was a time that Daniel believed audiences had seen enough of them. "The way we learned to play was by just playing shows and never saying no to a show. I think one year we did like 100 shows and most of them were in Brisbane so people probably got pretty sick of us."

This cult local favorite has shown no signs of slowing down, spilling out tremendous and influential records that are driving the creative direction and energy of Australian music through this decade.

PENTHOUSE TOP 3

ANIMAL COLLECTIVE – PAINTING WITH

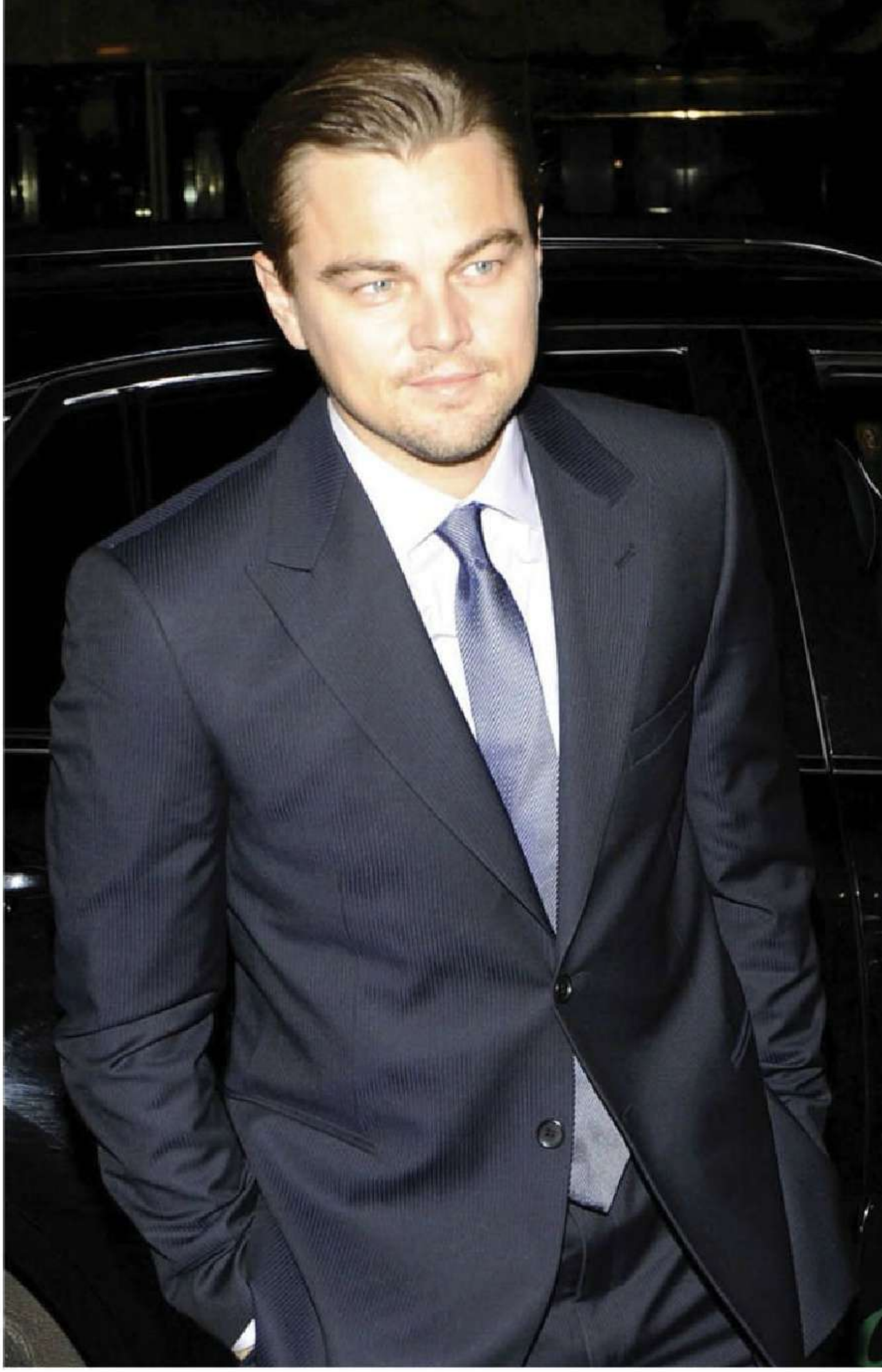
The lords of avant-garde electro-pop reunite on their first album since the uneasy and experimental Centipede Hz of 2012, which split from the easy going pop of Merriweather Post Pavilion of 2009. Noah Lennox has achieved a solo notoriety that rivals the band, collaborating with Sonic Boom from Spacemen 3 on Panda Bear Meets The Grim Reaper in 2015. Painting With is a test of whether they can still discover new sonic territories together. Overt similarities to former tropes, as suggested on the single FloriDada, may diminish their status as creative leaders, 10 years after their revolutionary production of Feels and Sung Tongs.

IGGY POP – POST POP DEPRESSION

Iggy Pop, frontman of The Stooges, is almost 70 years old and says this collaboration with Josh Homme from Queens Of The Stone Age is probably his final record. If this proves true, it's compelling to note that the Gardenia single and his vocal performance sound like a Bowie tune. A release set just months after David Bowie's death and final album, Blackstar, is a strange twist of fate and connection between two lifelong friends. The spirit and energy of Iggy Pop has remained fiery, amused and undiminished.

PJ HARVEY – THE HOPE SIX DEMOLITION PROJECT

Let England Shake from 2011 is the artistic high point of PJ Harvey's career, a concept album about suffering, nationhood and grief during World War I. Advances from her new record show her band has thankfully remained in place. Their intensity, blissful balance of production and emotive performance will meet a nomadic, human interest in places including Afghanistan, Kosovo and Washington DC.



FILM

LEO IS ALREADY AN ALL-AMERICAN BADASS

IT'S easy to get caught up in the buzz surrounding the Academy Awards, and joking about Leonardo DiCaprio's many near misses with those shiny, androgynous gold-boys is virtually a national pastime at this point. But let's get serious for a moment–the man simply doesn't need one.

Leo doesn't need validation from the Society of Rich People Patting Each Other on the Back–a collective who openly admit that they hardly ever even watch the films they're voting on. He doesn't need a statue from film snobs who've systematically snubbed him for the past 22 years, while handing out awards to disappointing Oscar bait flicks. In 2014 he was snubbed yet again for his role in The Wolf Of Wall Street, but why should he care? He doesn't need the approval of the attendees of the Hollywood meat parade for the world to know he's a certified don.

The result of this year's Oscars isn't important. Handing him a trophy because he's been putting the hard yards in for a year isn't going to undo the Academy's repeated neglect of a living legend.

His greatest achievement isn't his acting career anyway–it's his ongoing 27-year stint as an infamous party boy. A founding member of 'the Pussy Posse', and long rumored fan of insane sex-capades, the man is no stranger to success in Hollywood, both in front of the camera and behind the scenes–a fact that a gold statue, which is probably made out of cheap plastic, will never be able to reflect.

Sure, winning an Oscar would be nice - but what's to say Leo will continue his incredible acting streak once he's won? If he gets an Oscar, he will literally have every important film award that he's eligible for – what if it's the unattainability of the miniature gold knight that drives Leo to succeed. Sean Penn, Nicolas Cage, and Al Pacino all won Academy Awards and look at them now… do we really want Leo to be relegated to the world of straight-to-video action flicks and cameo appearances in Adam Sandler movies?

Not winning an Oscar is a great career move for DiCaprio. Leo doesn't need the validation of a bunch of boring, obsolete seniors who probably still have butlers and servants to know he wore dirt well and grunted good in The Revenant–the Academy can keep their award. Leo already knows he's an All-American badass and doesn't need some pity statue to remind him of that fact.

A FOUNDING MEMBER OF "THE PUSSY POSSE," AND LONG LONG-RUMORED FAN OF INSANE SEX-CAPADES, THE MAN IS NO STRANGER TO SUCCESS IN HOLLYWOOD

WEB OF INTRIGUE

SELLING YOUR PRIVACY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

FOR those of you who don't know (you should), the TPP or Trans-Pacific Partnership is a new U.S. led Free Trade Agreement. It is extremely complicated and we don't really know much about it because it has been negotiated in secret.

We've been told that everyone is going to benefit from it, great! So why then has it been negotiated in secret… for the last 4 years?

It will likely impact you, your rights online, as well as a bunch of other stuff. So what is everyone else saying about it? Well, there are two distinct narratives taking place:

Those For The TPP

Backers of the TPP include a swathe of wealthy CEO's - Rupert Murdoch, Steven Schwarzman, Goldman Sachs and John Paulson - the Republican mega-donor who made an alleged $3.7 billion from… wait for it - the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, but we've been assured we have nothing to worry about (sound familiar?). We've been told the TPP will promote higher labor standards, protect the environment, protect food safety standards and lower drug costs. However that's just one side of the story.

Those Against It

On the other side of the fence there is a very different narrative. Millions of people from around the world continue to stand firmly in opposition to the TPP. They argue that it prioritizes financial interest over privacy, human rights and free speech - it's a suffocating infringement on personal liberties disguised as a Free Trade Agreement.

What we know so far (which isn't much - and is only thanks to Wikileaks) is pretty bad. To put it simply, the stakes are high and if passed, foreign corporations will have the ability to sue governments if they believe a country's laws unfairly diminish their profits.

HERE ARE THE TOP REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT THE TPP

Negotiations Have Been In Secret

All we know about the TPP is thanks to information provided by Wikileaks. Other than that, everything has been kept secret, so that members of Congress, state governors, the press, and the public are not allowed to see drafts of the agreement. It raises the question: if we don't have anything to worry about, then why isn't it more transparent?

The Internet

Do you download things illegally off the internet? You might want to think again. If the TPP is passed, ISP's will be forced to hand over the details of individuals who have broken copyright law. Companies will have the ability to enforce heavy-handed criminal sanctions and fines, even for unintentional copyright infringement.

Greater Corporate Control

The laws of entire nations could be thrown under the bus. For example, cigarette company Philip Morris didn't like it when Australia passed its plain packaging law so they went to court and sued. Tens of millions of dollars in taxpayer money were used to defend the decision, which was ultimately upheld. If the TPP were ratified, however, Australia would be exposed to similar litigation and would have a diminished ability to protect its national interests. Along these lines, the TPP has the potential to undermine national sovereignty in favor of corporate profits.

TECH

NASA TO BROADCAST MARS EXPEDITIONS

In October 2015, NASA released around 8,400 high-res images taken during the Apollo 11 Moon landings. This documentation was inconvenient for conspiracy theorists who for decades have been using official photographs to claim the landings were a fraud.

If NASA fulfills its goal to send humans to Mars by 2030, there will be less chance of such theories taking hold. Virtual reality will provide compelling firsthand evidence of a mind-blowing achievement, with a global audience numbering in the billions riding along with astronauts, exploring the Martian surface in a 360-degree augmented reality.

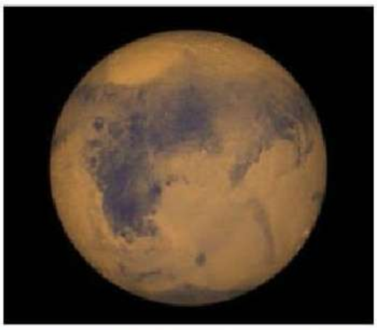
Dr Jeff Norris is Mission Operations Innovation Lead at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He was a keynote speaker at Vision Summit 2016, where leading innovators in virtual reality gathered in Hollywood, California in February.

"The arrival of astronauts on Mars will be one of the greatest accomplishments of our generation," said Norris in his speech. "But on that amazing day the astronauts will not be the only ones exploring. They will be supported by hundreds or even thousands of virtual astronauts. Call them telenauts, who are exploring alongside them."

"Our astronauts will look upon that alien landscape with their own eyes. But telenauts will see it from every possible perspective and angle and wavelength offered by all the robots, spacecraft, aircraft and the astronauts on that expedition."

In his speech, Norris announced NASA's future intentions to train regular people as telenauts, exploring virtual environments built out of composite images taken by satellites above Mars and rovers on the surface. Mass numbers of telenauts, defined as "one who explores from a distance," will speed up the process of visually screening Mars. A crowd-sourced approach will allow contributors to mark points of interest for later investigation by scientists.

THIS NEW ADVANCE ALLOWS THEM TO VIRTUALLY TRANSMIT THEMSELVES ONTO THE MARTIAN SURFACE



The VR system is called OnSight and is already in live use at NASA, where it was developed through partnership with Microsoft. Scientists have been reviewing images transmitted from Mars rovers on their computer screens since the late '90s. This new advance allows them to virtually transmit themselves onto the Martian surface, examining geological features and collaborating with colleagues in real time.

Beyond visual exploration, these virtual and augmented realities are allowing scientists to streamline the construction process of spacecraft and instruments. This has the potential to reduce the risk and cost of future missions, as well as helping to meet launch dates by reducing construction times.

Dr Norris' team is at the cutting edge of VR innovation for space exploration–designing tools to control the Curiosity Mars Rover, improving robot-human interaction, and also assisting activities for astronauts on the International Space Station.

When imagining the future of telenauts, it's hard to conceive the clarity and resolution of images that will be achievable by the 2030s. Moore's law dictates that computer power doubles approximately every two years. This doesn't relate to camera sensors, which are analogue instruments. Nevertheless, it will be possible to simply build bigger sensors with supercharged digital processors to send to Mars.

GAMING

PROFESSIONAL GAMERS ARE MAKING MORE THAN YOU!

WHAT do League of Legends, Counter Strike: GO, DOTA and Starcraft all have in common? If you said games, you are correct. But what do you know about the world of E-Sports? A sports industry that sends competitive gamers around the world to play in video game tournaments, with millions of dollars' worth in prize money to be won.

E-Sports is one of the fastest growing sport industries in the world. Enormous prize pools and lucrative sponsorship deals have taken it far beyond the realm of an occasional escape from reality to some of the largest sporting arenas in the world. Pro gamers would have you believe they are akin to professional athletes, practicing for hours a day and weeks at time.

Just last year, League of Legends, a game where teams of 3 or 5 players seek to destroy each other's bases whilst fighting for control of a map, held it's 2015 World Championship at LA's Staples Centre - home of the Lakers' and Clippers. The tickets sold out within an hour of the event being posted - the total prize pool was over $18 million.

The fans are fanatical to say the least. In 2014 the Electronic Sports League (ESL) had a staggering 73,000 attendees at a four day tournament in Katowice - and it continues to grow. On Twitch alone (an online TV channel dedicated to gaming) 860,000 people watched the CS:GO finals (a fast paced, strategic 5v5 first person shooter). Overall, the tournament drew almost 9 million unique visitors and 16 million hours watched. There are now 205 million people globally that watch E-Sports. South Korea even has a TV channel devoted to E-Sports.

E-SPORTS TOP EARNERS

Clinton 'Fear' Loomis	$1,735,983.84
Kurtis 'Aui_2000' Ling	$1,881,147.04 from 47 tournaments.
Peter 'ppd' Dager	$1,961,183.29 from 33 tournaments.
Saahil 'UNIVeRsE' Arora	$1,964,038.64 from 39 tournaments.

First you get the money, then you get the power, then you get the women. In 2015, the International Dota 2 Championship had a prize pool of over $18 million, with the first place winners taking home a cool $6 million. A new study has revealed that going into 2017, E-Sports looks to generate $465 million annually and is now the 7th biggest market in terms of volume. That makes it bigger than golf and rugby. And yes, you can bet on it. Recently, an E-Sports championship in China witnessed a higher betting volume than a top Premier League soccer game.

Not bad for pushing a few buttons and looking at a screen. So next time you give shit to your mates, or kids for playing too many video games, just remember that they could be millionaires one day.

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KING OF THE UNDERDOGS

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, WE'LL HAVE WITNESSED THE RISE OF A KING, OR THE FALL OF A STAR.

EVERY now and then someone or something comes along that fundamentally changes the status quo. The Hubble Telescope changed the way we view the universe bringing us closer to our cosmic origins than ever before. Synthesis did much the same with music, creating an infinite number of experiential possibilities that changed the aural experience forever. And now, Conor McGregor. His controversial and rapid rise to UFC dominance in 2015 has changed the way we perceive the athlete.

Born into a modest family in South Dublin, Conor McGregor was just another guy looking to make ends meet when on one rainy day, an MMA tournament came to town. From that moment he was hooked and started training. Fast forward 8 years: McGregor now stands tall as the UFC featherweight champion of the world. Not bad considering he picked up his last "dole" check for $180 just days before his first professional fight.

Now he's unashamedly loaded and he's not afraid to tell it how it is. Maybe it's his Irish background, or, perhaps he kissed the blarney stone one too many times, but McGregor is a loose-tongued, scrappy bastard and a six pack of Guinness. He's a promoters dream and his opponent's worst nightmare. He'll get inside your head and never let go. He's fearless, brazen and brash with his insults. But most of all he's a whole bunch of fun to watch.

Conor McGregor floats like a brick and stings like a train. He predicts fights with prophetic accuracy and taunts his opponents with a ferocity usually reserved for the King of the Jungle.

McGregor stands for something bigger than himself. Sure, he's loud, boisterous and brash, but he's also ambitious, a dreamer and a self-proclaimed mama's boy. He's managed to tap into our collective imagination, making us believe, even if only for a little while, that anything is possible. And that's the beauty in individuals like McGregor, who only come along every so often. They make us believe in the potential of pushing beyond the mundane, the everyday - like folklore heroes they make us believe in something bigger than ourselves.

By the time you read this, we will have witnessed the rise of a king, or the fall of a star. McGregor is already a king, but he's also a villain to many. In particular, Brazilian fans of the renowned José Aldo, who McGregor managed to knockout after only 13 seconds in the ring.

McGregor is in indisputable form, as is his next opponent dos Anjos. The stakes are high, dos Anjos is an absolute menace - a well-oiled machine, operating at its peak. He steam rolls through his opponents like a freight train on amphetamines, and he's got McGregor firmly in his sights. "Come to the lightweight division, it will be easy money". But McGregor's been the underdog before, he's in his element, he's inside dos Santos' head, he's in familiar territory: the lightweights, he says, are "Stuck in the mud...stiff...too slow."

Can he win? It's literally the million dollar question - McGregor is set to make over a million dollars per second during the fight. He's breaking records on all accounts, and now he's looking to consolidate another: to be the first person in UFC history to hold two UFC belts simultaneously. It's ambitious, it's bold–but McGregor has never been any different.

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT:

HERE IS SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MCGREGOR TRASH TALK

"He's a quiet little hillbilly from the back ass of nowhere. His cousin is probably named Cletus."
- McGregor didn't think much of Louisianan Dustin Poirier , whom he beat in September 2014.

"I'm your father, I'm your daddy yeah. Call me Jose Sr."
- To Jose Aldo, the featherweight champion at the time before their fight. McGregor knocked him out in 13 seconds.

"I don't just knock them out, I pick the round."
- Referring to his uncanny ability to pick the round in which he'll knock his opponents out.

"These custom-made suits aren't cheap. This solid gold pocket watch, three people died making this watch. I need to put people away. I need those big fights. I'm going to end up in debt pretty fast."
- To anybody listening.

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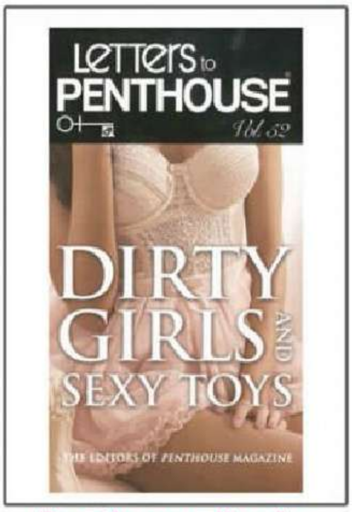
LETTERS to PENTHOUSE
Vol. 52
DIRTY GIRLS AND SEXY TOYS
THE EDITORS OF PENTHOUSE MAGAZINE

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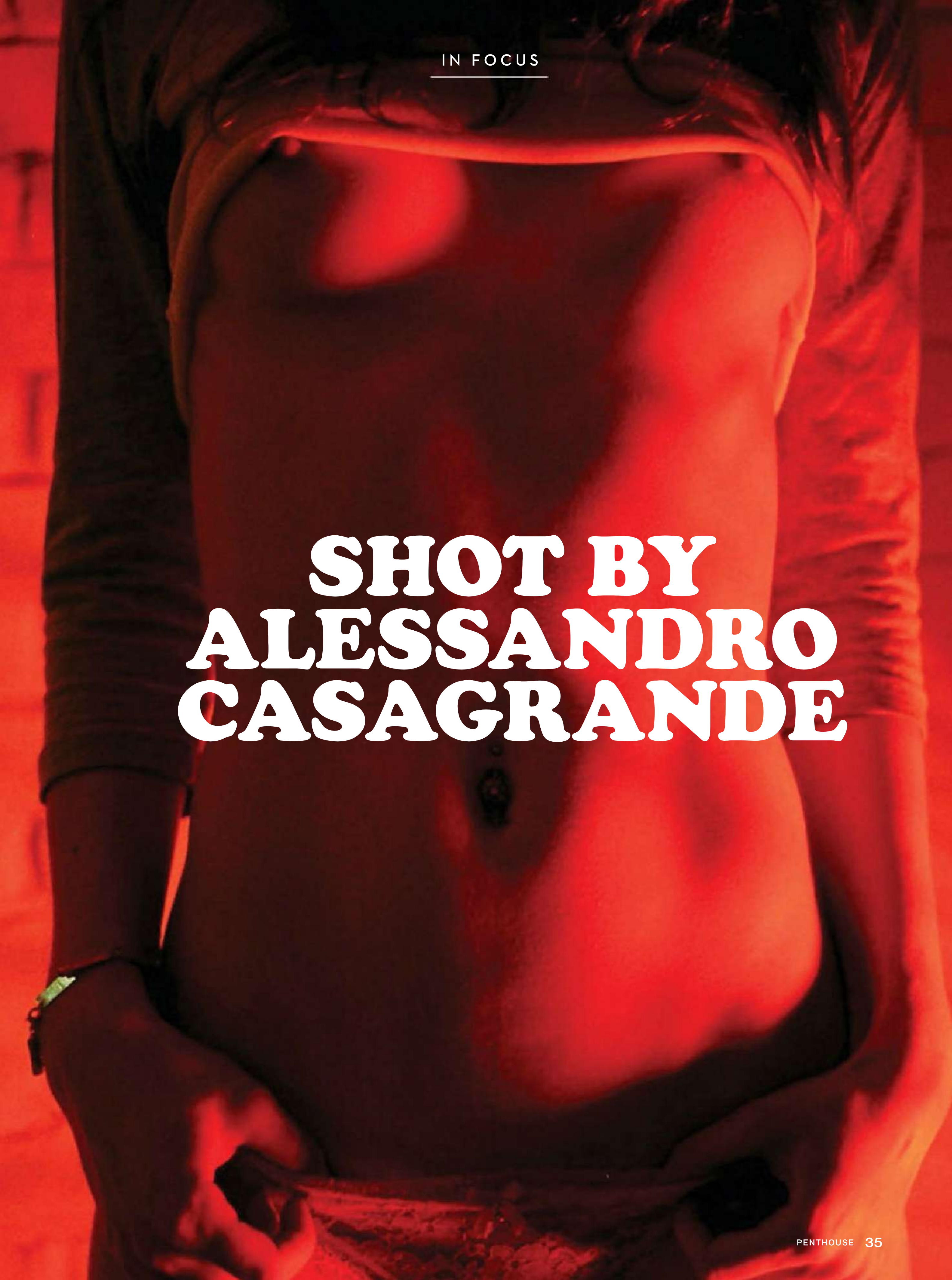

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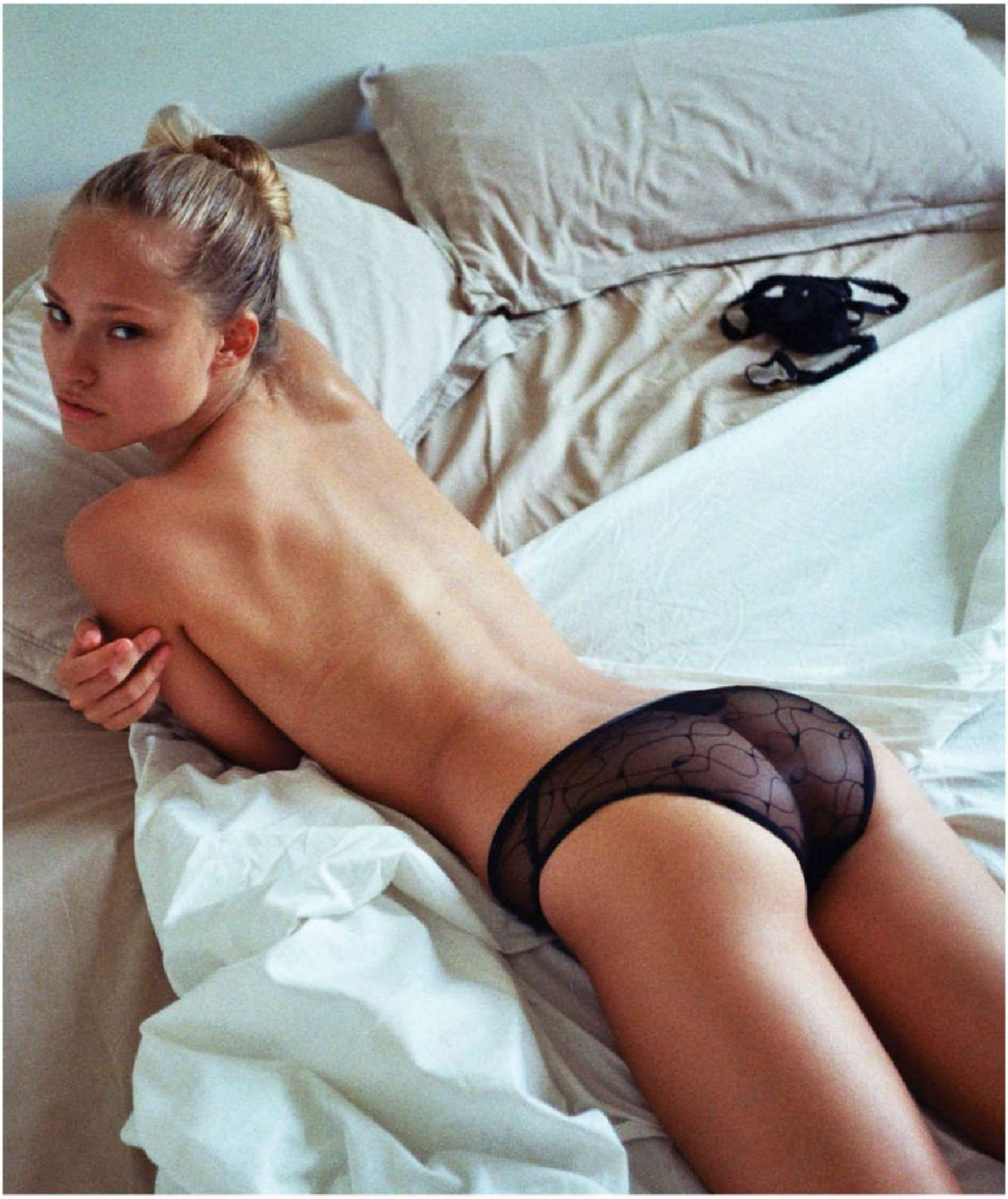

PEOPLE often ask me what I do for a living. I say that I am a photographer to make everything easier, without having to go through some contrived explanation of what I do. But I see myself as an artist, a dreamer.

Photography is just one of the mediums I use to say something about life, about beauty, about sadness... and I shoot women because I love them. Through their eyes, through their beauty, I can capture that sense of loss and desire that everyone experiences.

Women allow me to dream. When I am shooting nudes, there is a special sense of excitement between myself and the model. There is a beautiful sense of openness.

We are raised in a society that saturates us with sex: from television, the internet, advertising. Commercials are always telling us who we should be, what we should look like.

Being naked removes all that. You get to be yourself, and nobody else. The mask is removed. *–Alessandro Casegrande*

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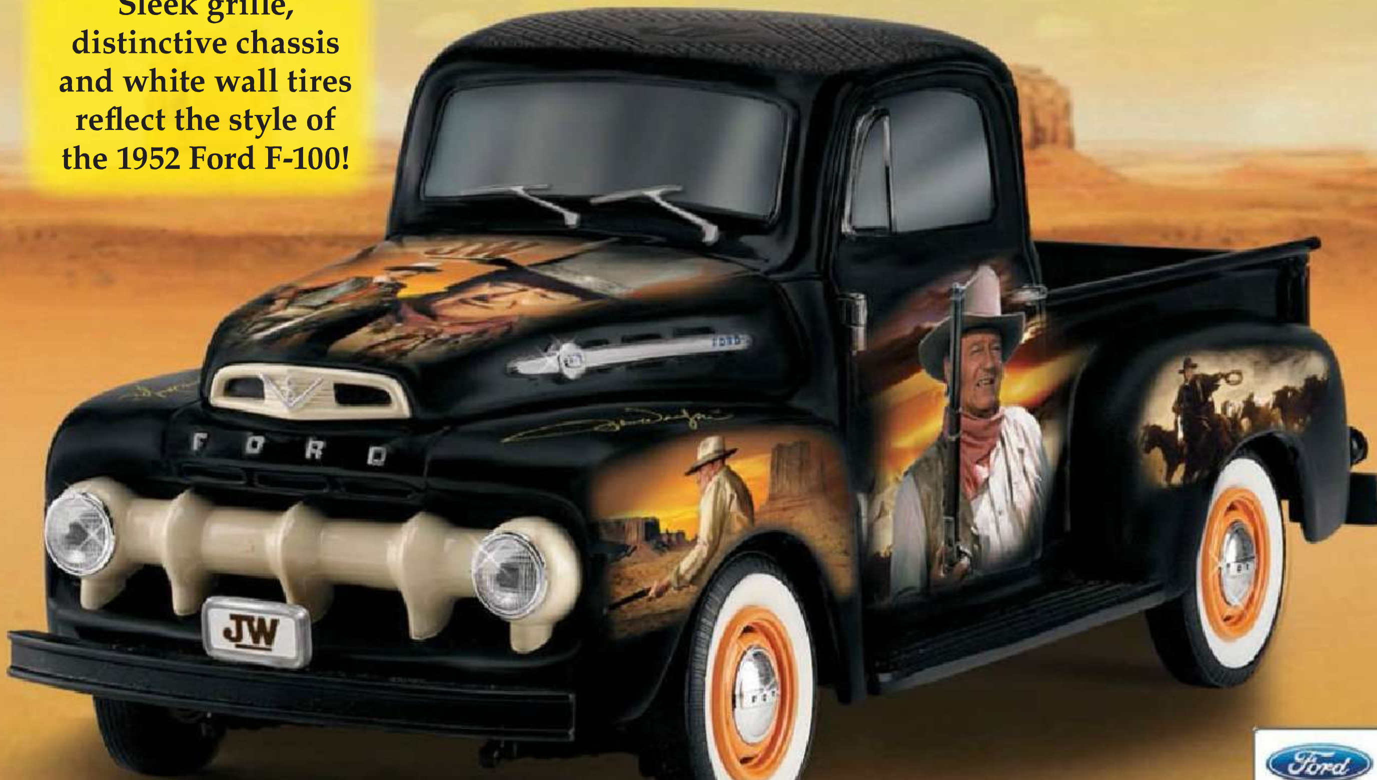

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WILD AT HEART

PENTHOUSE SPOKE WITH BEAR WRANGLING, LIVER EATING, WORLD RENOWNED MAN OF THE MOMENT LEONARDO DICAPRIO ABOUT THE REVENANT AND THAT TIME HE *ALMOST* DIED SKYDIVING.

LEONARDO DiCaprio is one of Hollywood's most unique figures. After Titanic turned him into a massive movie star and sex symbol, he turned away from the glamour roles and instead sought out the most difficult roles he could find. He also became Martin Scorsese's fetish actor that included performances in Gangs of New York and 2014's The Wolf of Wall Street.

But now he's taken on his stiffest test yet in Oscar-winning director Alejandro González Iñárritu's THE REVENANT, a stark tale of one man's brutal journey of survival and vengeance. DiCaprio endured icy river waters and subzero cold during the course of the nine-month shoot, most of which took place in northern Alberta, Canada. Based on the life of 19th century explorer Hugh Glass, the film charts the harrowing ordeal that he faced after being badly mauled by a bear and left for dead by the other members of his hunting team. The challenges posed by the elements and the terrain left their mark on DiCaprio, including a scene where he chomped into an actual bison liver in keeping with his and director Iñarritu's determination to give audiences the most authentic experience possible. >

"The main nemesis was the weather and the freezing temperatures," DiCaprio says. "It was always a struggle to stay warm enough and not suffer hypothermia and also to eat enough so that we could keep going in those conditions. It wasn't pleasant but we decided that we had to go into the freezing waters because that was the kind of realism we were striving to portray...I wouldn't eat the bison liver again, though!"

Most industry pundits have established the 41-year-old DiCaprio as the favorite to finally take home the Oscar for his work in the movie, a fitting accolade for an actor who keeps turning in one remarkable performance after another. The Revenant also co-stars Britain's Tom Hardy and Irish actor Domhnall Gleeson.

Penthouse spoke with DiCaprio about his time on the film, and some of his other passions in life. He currently divides his time between New York and Los Angeles and for the past six months has been enjoying a relationship with Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Kelly Rohnrbach.

> "...THEY JUST BASICALLY LOOKED AT YOU AS THE CLASS CLOWN AND DISMISSED YOU. I NEVER BELONGED."

Tell us about making the film

We wanted to make a great piece of art, so if the film gets a great reviews, if it gets great business, if it gets awards, that's fantastic because I want to see more movies like this out there coming from Hollywood. This is truly a poetic existential epic and you don't get to see stuff like this happen very often. So, I could only wish it all the success in the world.

The film is an intense portrayal of a human in the throes of despair. There's am enduring realism that really draws the viewer in. What aspects of the film were most prominent for you?

The theme of man vs. nature, revenge, the perseverance of life, what a man draws on to survive, our ability to adapt, what we hold onto, what drives us - these are all themes we wanted to explore while we were there. We spent nine months living in that environment and all those themes we spoke about before started the movie became apparent to us while we were making the movie.

We went on an epic voyage together because so much of what we were going to put up on screen was going to be dictated by us immersing ourselves in the natural world and recreating this environment.

Why did you take this role on... what was it about the script that spoke to you?

This was a pivotal point in American history because here you have this untouched pristine landscape. This was the first influx of people there. It was all about capitalism trying to extract the resources that were there and how many different cultures were sacrificed to this kind of greed.

This whole era of American history is undocumented, so in a lot of ways it was like doing a science fiction movie and reconnecting with a part of America that wasn't yet America, but very much like a lawless territory where you had French and English fur trappers and indigenous native people, fighting over these resources. We had to piece together what this world would be like and how these characters would interact, but at its core the movie is obviously about the relations between man and nature.

Being out in nature for that long, is an existential journey. The story, by and large, is very linear: a man gets screwed over and loses his son and then he goes to attack the dude that screwed his life up.

But to me and Alejandro it was these great bookmarks for what would happen when he and I started to figure out the poetry of who this character is and what he goes through. Nothing is fake in this story.

We felt as though the limited amount of dialogue added to the portrayal in a "less is more" kind of way

That really was one of the most exciting parts about the project. When I read the script I kept urging Alejandro to take out more lines. I wanted less dialogue because that was the exploration of this character. Actually, Hugh Glass is a man that does not mince words, he gets straight to the point and I don't think he necessarily wants to communicate with that many people. (Laughs). But staying silent for so long, even for such a man like Hugh Glass, is a real challenge. And that was a challenge as I had to make the story come alive, just through his eyes.

Alejandro González Iñárritu is known for his dedication to authenticity. How did you deal with filming in such extreme cold?

I decided not to cover any of my fingers because I wanted to manipulate my environment. And, of course, I ended up crawling through miles and miles of snow-covered landscape...It's those decisions early in a film that come back to haunt you.

But we knew what we were signing up for when you say you're going to do this in sub-zero temperatures and in places untouched by man.

I was never injured while working on the film although I did get pretty sick with the flu a few times.

Talking about extreme situations in my life though, I've been scuba diving, but after seeing this movie you could certainly never compare any kind of extreme to this struggle in the wilderness.

At the end of any shooting day I would go to my hotel room and think I would never be able to endure what these men did. I have been in a lot of situations which were sort of near death experiences but nothing like this, no.

Every single day of this movie was difficult. It was the most difficult film I've ever done. You'll see, when you see the film—the endurance that we all had to have is very much up on the screen.

There is a famous scene in the film where Hugh Glass is attacked by a bear. The scene's dedication to realism makes it a gripping piece of cinema. Can you tell us how you and the director managed to achieve this?

I don't want to give away all the details about how we shot the scene but I was never in any danger....We rehearsed the scene for several months and studied tapes of over 100 actual bear attacks to know how we should do it.

People are talking about it because it's something incredibly ground-breaking ... audiences are responding to it because it's unlike anything they've seen in cinema ever really...Alejandro (Gonzales Iñarritu) allows the audience to (experience) a

"AT ITS CORE THE MOVIE IS OBVIOUSLY ABOUT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE"

very raw violent savage bear attack yet feel the intimacy of both man and beast, you feel the sweat and the heat coming off of the animal.

What was it like to work with Alejandro González Iñárritu?

It was all a big, beautiful blur to me. This was such a unique process for all of us as actors. The shooting style was unlike anything I've ever done before and unlike anything the other actors had ever done before…It was very much like performing theatre everyday: We had to rehearse meticulously and it was this mad, intense scramble to capture this magic light, this precious hour and a half of beautiful illustrious 'Chivo' (cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki's nickname - ED) light – and so it became very much like a humorous 'Saturday Night Live' situation.

We wanted to shoot in natural light because Alejandro strives for such authenticity. I'm still staggered by his kind of commitment to the work and how it adds so much to the experience you have as an actor. You get to do what you do best when you get to immerse yourself in the part. That's a great gift if you're an actor. You felt an intensity and a unity with the entire crew and it became this perpetuating thing that translated into this movie.

Speaking of striving for authenticity, did you really eat a buffalo liver?

Yes, it was a real buffalo liver. It was disgusting and you see my real reaction to that experience on the screen! (Smiles)

There was a point in filming where you guys had to shut down - what happened there?

We were supposed to do a scene with my son as he's praying for me. And the temperature hit 40 below zero. At that point we couldn't really open our eyes. And our fingers locked together and the camera gear locked together, and I just looked at Alejandro and said, 'I'm all for enduring realism, but there comes a point when nothing is operable.

(The production subsequently shut down on November 29th and shooting did not resume until January 19th.)

Apparently you used to skydive, but not anymore? Can you tell us what happened there?

I like the excitement that comes with pushing myself past what I think are my own limits. It's interesting to scare yourself but once you've faced your fears you feel exhilarated.

I also used to do skydiving for that reason. But then there was...an incident. It was a tandem dive. We pulled the first chute. That was knotted up. The gentleman I was with cut it free. We did another free fall for like another 5, 10 seconds. I didn't even think about the extra chute, so I thought we were just plummeting to our death. He pulled the second, and that was knotted up too. He just kept shaking it and shaking it in mid-air, as all my friends were, you know, what felt like half a mile above me, and I'm plummeting toward earth. (Laughs.) And he finally unravels it in mid-air. The fun part was when he said, 'You're probably going to break your legs on the way down, because we're going too fast now.' So after you see your whole life flash in front of your eyes—twice—he says, 'Oh, your legs are going to get broken too.' (When we finally landed) we did, like, this barrel roll. We got bruised up, but no broken legs....I do not skydive any longer.

Tell us a bit about life growing up as Leo

In school I was about a foot shorter than anyone else, always jumping up and getting laughs - a little smart-ass with a big mouth. School was like this wild safari where I could make a name for myself, but it never really worked. They just basically looked at you as the class clown and dismissed you. I never belonged.

But I was very lucky to have great parents who helped me understand the world and give me a better sense of the world. My mother would spend hours driving me to a special art-oriented school so I could get a better education. If she hadn't done that for me, I would never have become an actor.

What's something you wish you had of known when you were at that stage in your life? What would you tell young people today?

I've produced films which speak about the defense of the environment (most notably, The 11th Hour – ED) and I try all the time to make younger people very aware about how fragile our ecosystem is and how we can all make a difference.

I have a solar-powered house. I drive a hybrid car which consumes very little gas. I separate my garbage, I don't run the water unnecessarily, and I shut off the lights when I leave a room. All those little things which if we all did can have a huge impact, and I think the younger generation is much more sensitized to environmental issues than I was when I was growing up.

Looking back to when you were growing up, did you ever expect to get to this point?

I sometimes have to look back and say, "Wow, this is amazing what has happened to me. I have been able to fulfil a lot of these dreams that I had when I was very young...It's pretty amazing. I have to say it's a pretty amazing feeling. But at the same time it becomes addictive! So yes, my dreams have been surpassed. (And) I would like to think that I stood for something and made a positive contribution to the world.

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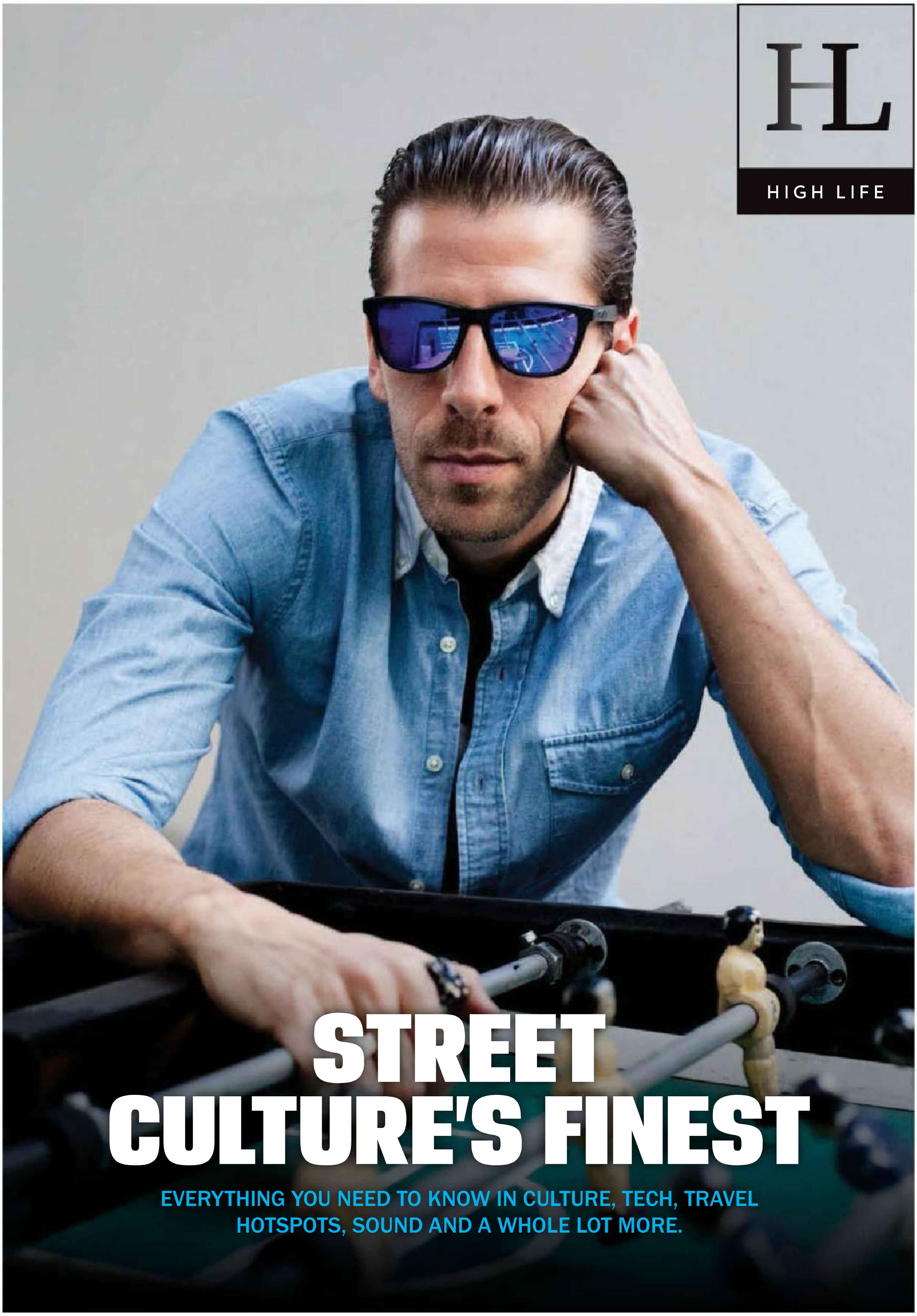

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IN 2001, Michael Dupouy co-founded *La MJC*, a boutique agency based in his hometown of Paris, France. One of the first to understand and specialize in street culture, *La MJC* published a weekly online newsletter exclusively dedicated to the scene.

Over the last 15 years, *La MJC* has grown into a full-fledged creative agency that specializes in product design, art direction and strategic consulting. They have worked for an extensive array of clients including Nike, Colette, Adidas, Undefeated, Stüssy, New Balance, Bang & Olufsen, and Mercedes.

In keeping with its roots, *La MJC* has continued to offer an alternative and fresh perspective on global street culture with *All Gone* – an annual book project dedicated to highlighting the finest limited edition and collaborative products.

For the past ten years, *All Gone* has documented the best of everything street culture has had to offer including sneakers, apparel, books, vinyl figures, skateboards, and other collectibles. What started in 2006 as a niche culture reference guide is now, a decade later, the official bible of street culture, paying homage to only the best brands and most iconic creations within each year. The following pages showcase some of Michael's personal favorites featured in his new book *All Gone, A Decade of Street Culture's Finest*.

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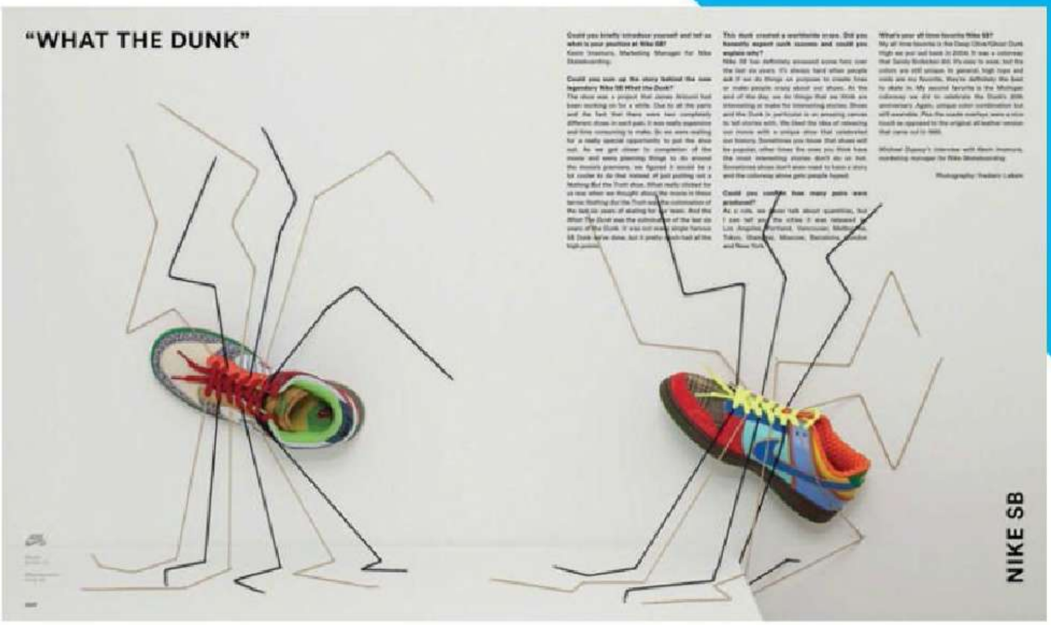
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VISTAJET

TRAVEL GETS UBERFIED

THINKING about jetting off on a Gulfstream 650, island-hopping on a luxury yacht, or threading a Triumph Spitfire MK3 1967 through London? It's all now doable thanks to a brash startup called Uber that shows how instant web access can deliver what you want when you want it anywhere in the world.

Uber revolutionized the taxi business by outmaneuvering livery companies and talking directly to customers and drivers—making a mint doing it. No surprise that lots of other people are now looking at how they can also disrupt travel by offering unlimited choice in boats, planes, and cars.

These 'on demand' startups are letting you travel like a billionaire at a fraction of the cost with just your smartphone and credit card in hand, connecting you directly to company fleets or to so-called 'peer-to-peer' options where individuals let you get up close and personal with their precious passenger jet, speedboat, or Maserati.

You could get your hands on a lot of these boys' toys in the past as well of course, but it was just a lot more expensive, time-consuming and bureaucratic. The new 'Gig' businesses are taking the hassle out of travel with rapid connections online or from simple mobile apps to an ever-expanding range of options, especially as the people who own some of these luxury machines prefer to rent them out over locking them up in garages or marinas.

It may still be pioneer days for travel Uberfication, but as the startups get smarter and faster, you'll soon find the world's your Uber.

MILE HIGH CLUB

Flying anywhere can be a hard, expensive slog, especially if you've always fancied a private jet, but now newcomers like Surf Air, Blackjet, Arrow, and Jumpseat want to make it just like, well, Uber. U.S.-centric at this stage, all four offer seats on private jets already flying where you want to go, often at discounted prices and backed up by apps or 24-hour concierge call in.

The long hauls also look to be getting smarter. London-based Vistajet now has 58, jets like the Global 6000 and Challenger 350, covering 80 percent of the world including Australia. The company, which is just about to launch an app, says its planes come with two pilots, cabin staff, luxurious interiors, gourmet food or alcohol, and are able to pick you up or drop you off anywhere as long as the landing strip is long enough.

Sure, all that comfort and convenience comes at a price. For the 15-passenger Global 6000 out of Sydney, for example, it's $16,000 an hour from wheels up to wheels down, but cheaper on domestic runs, and cheaper still if you become a member. The company says business is booming.

UK-based Victor is similarly artisanal, but says its on-demand approach delivers absolute convenience at lower prices than booking private jets the old fashioned way through brokers. Jets are ranked as “Head of State,” “Mid-size” and the “Very Light Jet,” depending on where you want to go, and they’ll even let your dog fly up there with you too.

BUOY’S CLUB

The world’s oceans are getting crowded with Uber-like startups, offering everything from yachts and catamarans to speedboats, crew, and tailored trips from pretty much anywhere you land.

Sailsquare and Antlos operate out of Europe, but both let you pick from hundreds of yachting holidays worldwide with either your own group or complete strangers. In the U.S. you can choose from every sort of boat imaginable, with companys like Boatbound, Cruzin, Boatsetter, or GetMyBoat, while for dedicated sailors there’s now Sailo.

Australian startups like Flote and Boatbay are testing the water too. Boatbay is typical of the new freedom, offering concierge services to book big and small yachts, with or without crew, Down Under or in Southeast Asia from places like Singapore, Phuket in Thailand, and Bali.

Of course Uber’s seen the potential too, recently launching UberBoat for cross-continent trips out of Istanbul in Turkey and with more options becoming available shortly.

CAR CLUB

Startups all around the world are now tapping into new, luxury, or classic cars that you can hire directly from owners either for a spin ‘round town or much further afield. And you can do it all from their smartphone apps once you get there.

UK-based RenteCarlo is pretty typical, allowing registered members to get behind the wheel of prestige cars like Maseratis, Porsches, and Audi R8s—all without the hassles and overheads of major car hire companies. Europe’s also got Roadstr, Drivvy, Snappcar, GoMore, and Naboli all doing something similar, while in the U.S. you can try out Turo, Justshareit, rockandrollrides, or, if nature is your thing, Outdoorsy, with its collection of classic RVs and trailers.

But you know an idea has wheels when three of the world’s biggest car companies also hop on board. Ford’s easyCarClub, General Motors’ Maven and BMW’s DriveNow all now offer some form of car-sharing or car-hire backed up by apps to make it all happen.

CHOP CHOP

If anything sums up the Uberfication of travel it has to be Blade, the U.S.-based helicopter ride startup that launched last year to instant success.

By passing all the old rules, long delays and high prices of chopper hire, Blade launched an app that’s now been downloaded around 300,000 times. Members either book into an existing flight to their destination or create a new flight that Blade then crowdsources to fill.

Blade has not only cut prices for chopper hire, but has shaved hours from holiday trips to places like the Hamptons, Cape Cod, or the Bahamas and keeps adding destinations. And if you’re landing at any New York airport you can now tap onto BladeBounce for a 5-minute trip to midtown for around $900.

Uber even partnered with Blade for a Fourth of July weekend event, but has now launched its own UberChopper internationally.

R 8100

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SOUND INVESTMENT

EVER been stuck on a flight trying to make those airline earpieces fit properly or at least make out what they're saying in the movie? Failing getting an upgrade to first class you're best to join the growing ranks of travelers who come wired for sound with a great set of headphones.

Headphones are definitely having a moment as the big audio guys like Bose, Sony, Bang & Olufsen and Philips as well as smaller companies like Sennheiser and Harmon Kardon release new gear. All this attention means the latest headphones are lighter, more compact, better designed, and smarter with Bluetooth streaming, apps, touch control or sensors, and with great CD-quality, High Definition sound.

But it's the noise cancelling technology that's really hard to beat. While most of the next generation headphones offer noise isolating earcups often in luxurious leather or suede, going that bit extra in price for a pair that really shuts out the world with active or adaptive noise cancellation is well worth it.

Sure headphones are bigger and pricier than earbuds, but they also sound so much better. It just means you can concentrate on relaxing on those long flights without listening to crying babies or the couple behind you. So even if you aren't in first or business, you will feel like you are.

● The **Sennheiser Momentum 2.0** is top of the line, but has premium performance and features to justify the price. Strong design means these are not only great looking headphones, but light, sturdy, comfortable to wear for long periods, and so compact they fold away into a neat pouch. Dual connection with either Bluetooth or wire, they come with active noise-cancellation, dual microphones for taking calls, embedded earcup swipe control and a 20 plus hour battery life. Like most headphones, the wire connection delivers better audio, but even in Bluetooth mode these have great balance, clarity and base.

●

●● The **Bose QuietComfort 25** is the latest from an iconic company that's been something of a pioneer in noise cancelling headphones. This next generation model improves on nearly everything across the board, including sound, noise cancelling and overall performance. Design is a standout, with luxurious leather over-ear cups for comfort, zinc metal pivot molding, nice weight, robust build and simple folding mechanism for very compact storage. There's Bluetooth and wired connection for convenience, 35 hour battery life and crisp, warm audio. It also helps that Bose offers a 21 day satisfaction guarantee, so if you don't like them, you can return them.

●●

●●● The **Parrot Zik 2.0** comes from a company that made its name building drones, but is definitely no slouch when it comes to audio either. Calling the Zik 2.0 "the world's most advanced headphones," they've embedded a lot of IQ-like excellent noise cancellation, motion sensors, embedded earcup control and 8 microphones. Using noted French designer Phillipe Stark, the Zik 2.0 is not only beautifully engineered for easy movement, but incorporates polished aluminum molding and padded oval, leather finish earcups for great looks and comfort. The accompanying free Apple or Android apps help you create bespoke audio effects, while the 5 band equalizer, graduated presets and more powerful digital-to-analog converter deliver great HD sound.

●●●

DESINATIONS

FIVE TRAVEL HOTSPOTS

TRAVEL, as they say, broadens the mind, which is why sticking to the tried and true, or just plain close, may not end up being that exciting. So if you think you've done all you can in Noosa, Bali, or Phuket then our list of the hottest places to see this year is for you.

We understand the need for a quick holiday recharge and that's why we're keen on the 10-day-Asia-Getaway based on two weekends plus one work week. Close enough for no jet lag, long enough in the air for a couple of meals, some movies, and a bit of shuteye, the area's good weather and great food make South Asia an ideal destination for Penthouse's U.S. audience. This year, try Myanmar (formerly Burma) or Sri Lanka, before the rest of the world really discovers them.

If you have two or more weeks up your sleeve then you've got an obligation to get some serious frequent flyer points. Our two destinations-Mexico City or Istanbul-may be in different directions, but both mix ancient with modern effortlessly, are busy, youthful cities, have a sterling reputation for delicious food and booze, and boast great weather, beaches, and endless adventure. Enough said.

Hey Aussies: Can't quite face the commitment and dedication overseas travel demands this year? Then look no further than Broome and the stunning Kimberley region in Western Australia. Travel in winter when you definitely need it and you're guaranteed great weather with some of Australia's most stunning scenery and beaches.

MYANMAR (OR BURMA AS THE LOCALS STILL CALL IT)

Why Go? Frozen in time for roughly 50 years by tough military rule, Myanmar's recent democratic election means the country is again open for business.

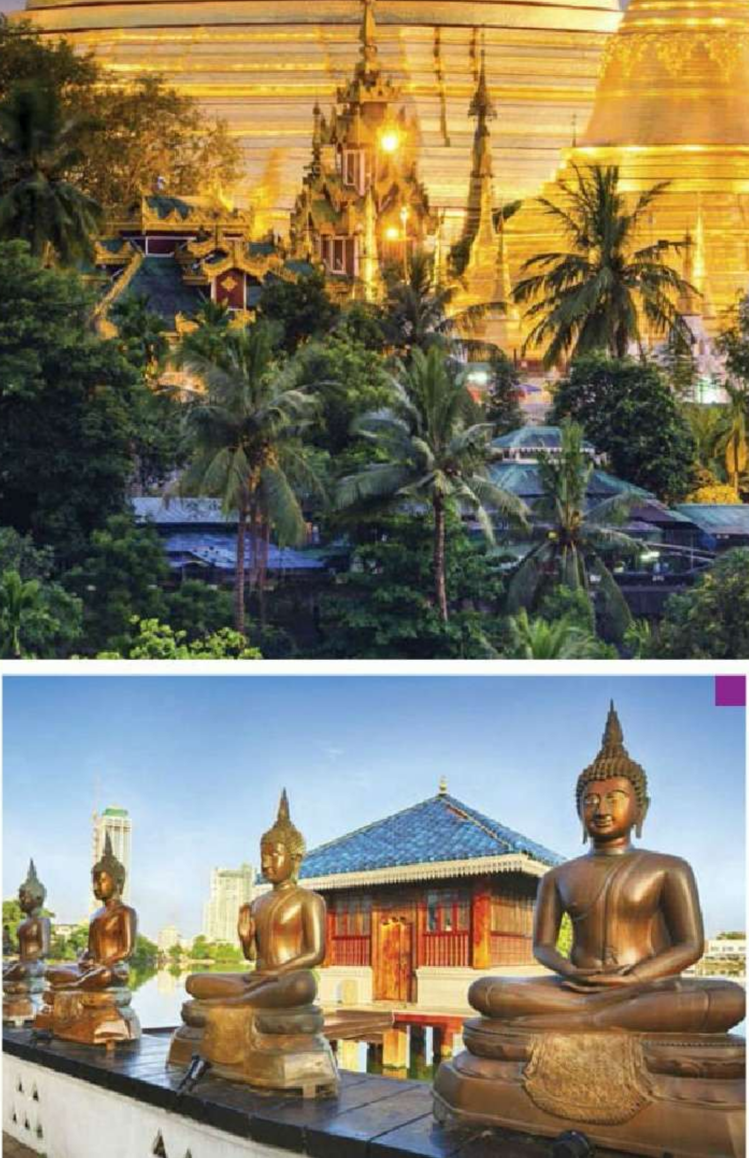
What To See? The decaying tropical capital Yangon with incredible colonial buildings like the Secretariat or Bogyoke AungSan Market, plus the sprawling golden Shwedagon Pagoda overlooking the whole city. Head to suburban Yangon to watch the sun come up over thousands of glinting ancient temples, followed by days at the enormous Lake Inle in low wooden boats cruising to markets, restaurants, floating farms, and villages on stilts.

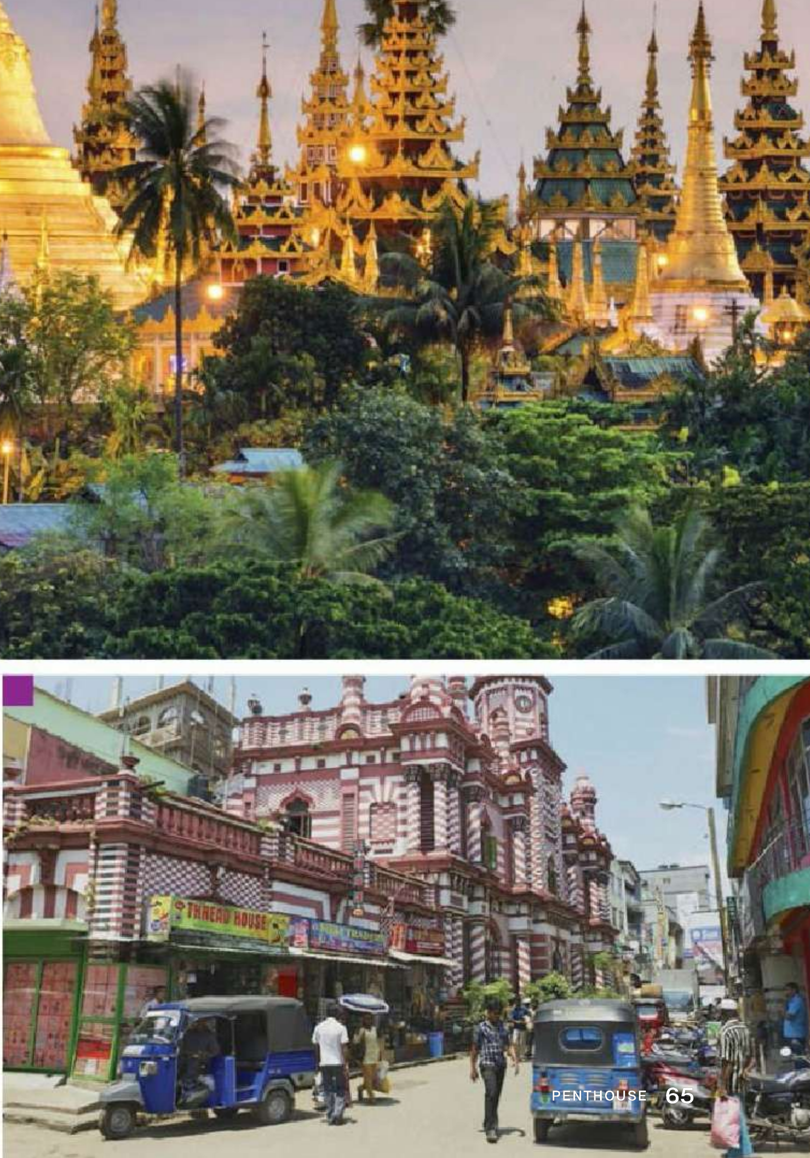
What To Eat & Drink? In Yangon, head to 19th Street for barbecued fish or meat, tea, cakes, and spicy noodles in downtown lane ways, or grab a stool at the Strand Bar for a Dagon Beer or Strand Whiskey Sour.

SRI LANKA (OR CEYLON AS IT WAS KNOWN)

Why Go? The end of the brutal 25-year civil war has put this tiny, gorgeous island back on the international map.

What To See? Start in the bustling capital Colombo for markets, restaurants, and a heady mix of Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim

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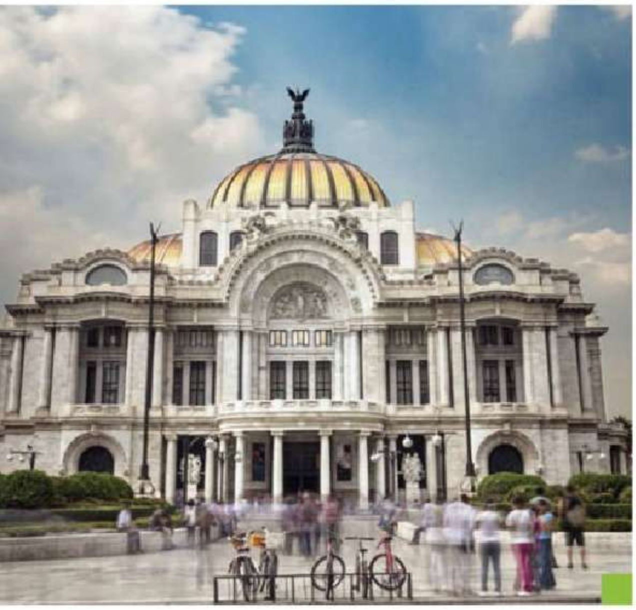

cultures. Take one of the antique but charming trains either north to spiritual Kandi and its huge golden Buddha, or to the east and southern coasts, where new hotels and eco-resorts are a stone's throw from some of the world's best swimming, surfing, and diving beaches, as well as untouched national parks for cycling and animal safaris.

What to Eat & Drink? Sri Lanka has one of the best food cultures in the world—aromatic curries, the iconic string hopper, and fresh lobster or crab is cheap and delicious. Ceylon got started with tea, but is now a huge coffee producer. For those who want something stronger, try a tamarind martini or Lion Stout.

MEXICO CITY

Why Go? Far from the drug wars, Mexico City is a megacity of 20 million that wants to be known as a hub of food, art, music, and affordable travel.

What to See? No longer an eyesore, Mexico City is being made over as a hipster capital, where areas like Polanco and Condesa are crowded with espresso bars, galleries, and restaurants fusing Mexican with French and Italian influences. Go from ancient to modern in a day; from the Aztec Templo Mayor or baroque Catedral Metropolitana to flea markets, downtown bars, and contemporary architecture, like the Museum of Anthropology or futuristic Museo Soumaya.

What to Eat & Drink? Mexicans love their food and you can get tacos, tamales, mole, chilaquiles, and more, any time of day on the street or reinvented at high-end restaurants. Sure, there's great beer, but Mezcal has become the go-to drink these days.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Why Go? An ancient, sprawling city straddling the legendary Bosphorus Strait effortlessly blends Asia and Europe and is quickly modernizing.

What to See? The old city is packed with history, including such legendary sites as the 6th-century Hagia Sophia, gorgeous Blue Mosque, and sprawling Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar. But this overwhelmingly youthful city is a lot hipper than it used to be and a stroll down the famous Istiklal Caddessi Avenue and side streets opens up a world of boutiques, restaurants, bars, patisseries, and galleries.

What to Eat & Drink? Street food like fish sandwiches or eggplant-stuffed, Turkish bread, kebabs, and baklava are everywhere, but you'll find a great mix of European and Middle Eastern food in restaurants all over town. And while the local spirit Arak is something of an acquired taste, this is a town for fresh juices and, of course, Turkish coffee.

BROOME, WEST AUSTRALIA

Why Go? Broome at the very top of West Australia not only has a unique history and fabulous beaches, but is the door to one of the country's most incredible landscapes in the Kimberleys.

What to See? A historic pearling (the harvesting of pearls form oysters) town built on decades of migration, Broome mixes beach and bush with Malaysian, Chinese, European, and Japanese culture. Head out to famous Cable Beach to swim and fish, four-wheel-drive it to Dampier Peninsula for mud-crabbing, snorkeling, and hiking, or book a cruise up the Mitchell or King George Rivers. There are also drive tours to the heart of the Kimberleys to wonder at prehistoric scenery like Geikie Gorge.

What to Eat & Drink? As Broome's popularity grows, so do restaurant and bar options, but you can do no worse than fresh prawns and oysters and a cold beer in town, or a night dining under the stars at Cable Beach Resort.

CORCUMA
ZERDECAL

TRAVIS KALANICK

THE UBER CEO IS DESCRIBED BY THOSE WHO KNOW HIM AS ARROGANT AND RECKLESS. COULD THIS BE THE SECRET TO HIS SUCCESS?

WITH a networth of $6 billion and a string of successful Silicon Valley tech companies in his portfolio, Travis Kalanick is a bonafide baller. The founder and CEO of Uber, the ride-sharing app that is changing the face of door-to-door transportation, Kalanick and co-founder Garrett Camp created the app to overcome the problem of not being able find a taxi in San Francisco. Initially, Uber used existing luxury fleet cars that belonged to 'black car' hire companies. This allowed users to get a comfortable, classy ride at the press of a button, for only a slight increase in cost.

For Kalanick, overcoming San Francisco's lack of available taxis wasn't his only motivation. In a founding story blog post, he explained that riding in style was a key aspect of the app.

"We just wanted to push a button and get a ride," he wrote. "And we wanted to get a classy ride. We wanted to be baller in San Francisco. That's all it was about."

> **"WE WANTED TO GET A CLASSY RIDE. WE WANTED TO BE BALLER IN SAN FRANCISCO. THAT'S ALL IT WAS ABOUT."**

Kalanick is part of a rising number of high life CEOs coming out of the tech-start up Mecca of Silicon Valley. These guys are young, intelligent, and tech-savvy with the egos to match their millionaire lifestyles. And right now, Kalanick has been anointed their king–sitting atop a huge fortune, dating the stunning Gabi Holsworth, and leading one of the most innovative, disruptive tech companies of the last five years.

Kalanick didn't get where he is sitting around–his success is earned through years of hard work and perseverance. As a kid he wanted to be a spy, but the allure of entrepreneurship was too strong. In his younger days, he traveled door-to-door selling knives and at only eighteen, started his own business–an SAT prep course called New Way Academy. After graduating high school, he attended UCLA to study computer engineering. Like many successful tech entrepreneurs, however, he dropped out to pursue something bigger. His first tech start-up was Scour, a peer-to-peer multimedia search engine which ended in bankruptcy when the company was sued by several entertainment companies to the tune of $250 million. But men like Kalanick don't get where they are by giving up: he soon started another peer-to-peer company using the same search engine that he and his team had designed for Scour. The new company, 'Red Swoosh,' would later be acquired for $19 million.

Kalanick is described as reckless and arrogant by those who know him. This, in part, is the key to his success. Always hungry and on the look-out for new ideas, Kalanick holds 'jam sessions' at his house in San Francisco. A 'jam session' is the term for the salons he holds with other entrepreneurs, to discuss business ideas, drink beer, and play video games. Kalanick became an angel investor in Silicon Valley who, if he liked you, would invest in your start-up and if he believed in what you were selling, he would even work a couple of days a week with you for free.

That being said, Kalanick is known to be ruthless and bold in business –a capitalistic force determined for success at all costs. Entrepreneur and journalist John Batelle has said most in the tech industry "are worried about the sheer expression of capitalistic force that (Uber) represents." Even a long-time friend of Kalanick's described him in an interview with FastCompany as "an incredibly aggressive person."

Success like Kalanick's rarely comes without controversy and his personality, although bristly, has clearly made up part of his success. Beyond all criticism of the man himself, his company and his impact is undeniable. Uber continues to grow and is quickly transforming the face of transportation in countries all over the world.

HEADPHONES

PORTABLE PLAY

HEADPHONES are great for when you want to be focused, but there's lots of times traveling when listening to music out loud–either on your own or with friends–is the way to go. Especially when you want better sound than you can get from your phone, tablet, or laptop, or the docks a lot of hotels offer.

And that's where wireless Bluetooth speakers deliver. This is also becoming a very crowded scene with Sonos, Bowers & Wilkins, Yamaha, JBL, Beats, Riva Audio, and Jawbone, to mention just a few, all offering compact, lightweight, and great looking speakers with far better sound than they did even just a few years ago.

It helps they're versatile too, connecting with most smartphones, tablets, laptops, or any other Bluetooth-enabled gadget. While many now also come with long-life rechargeable batteries, so that they can go wherever you go without missing a beat.

Which Speakers To Choose?

● The **Sony SRS-X3** is one of the best-looking wireless Bluetooth speakers on the market, with a simple, pared-back design, and elegant finish and controls. It's also one of the most compact speakers around, but still manages to fit in a speakerphone feature, different sound modes and NFC technology for smartphone pairing. Mini wireless speakers have had a mixed reputation when it comes to audio, but the SRS-X3 has great sound for its size and is definitely one of the better minis out there for audio performance. A clean sound, particularly in the mid-range, it has input for non-Bluetooth devices and a 7-hour battery life.

●● The **JBL Charge 2+** has a slick, water resistant, cylindrical design that's highly portable and can be played vertically or horizontally for complete versatility when you're traveling. One of the lightest on the market, it still comes with features like a built-in multiple connect speakerphone, good 12-hour battery life and dual functionality as a portable charger for your other gadgets like phones and tablets. The Charge 2+ has one of the better reputations for sound quality on the market for its size and particularly at high volumes, which can be a problem for some Bluetooth speakers.

●●● The **UE Roll** comes from established peripherals company Logitech and is one of three in its Bluetooth speaker line. The UE Roll is also one of the most distinctive for its saucer design, light weight portability, and affordability. The fact that it's waterproof and comes with a bungee cord and 'life preserver' for floating adds to its outdoor appeal. Notwithstanding its skinny build, it comes with great features like solid audio, rechargeable 9-hour battery, ability to play flat or vertically, and multiple-speaker option if you tether it to another Roll.

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THE NATURAL BEAUTY

Our Pet of the Month, Jenna Sativa, radiates as she basks in the warm spring sunshine. “I love shooting outdoors,” she says. “Posing in the rocks and the dirt and the trees. It was exciting getting dirty and climbing around.” But this Miami girl cleans up pretty well, too, as she pursues her studies in finance and shows us her…um…current assets.

Photography: Ben Hoffman Model: Jenna Sativa

"I DEFINITELY GOT A LOT WILDER ONCE I TURNED EIGHTEEN."

⇩ TEAR HERE ⇩

⇩ TEAR HERE ⇩

PENTHOUSE
JENNA SATIVA 2016 PET OF THE MONTH

PENTHOUSE
JENNA SATIVA 2016 PET OF THE MONTH

Vital Stats:
32C-24-36
23 years old.

Hometown:
Miami, FL

What is your favorite thing about your hometown?
The beautiful beaches and the Everglades.

What vacation spot would you like to visit?
I would love to visit Brazil and practice my Portuguese. I love Brazilian food, music, and women. There is something so sensual about Brazilian women to me.

Where do you go to school?
I attended Florida International University to study finance, but I am transferring to a new school in Southern California soon.

What is your favorite thing about becoming a Pet?
Honestly, the babes. So many gorgeous girls around me! I feel so lucky.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to go hiking.

Tell us about one of your sexual fantasies.
Mermaids near a waterfall…"playing" with each other.

What gets you excited?
Girls moaning.

What gets you in trouble?
Girls.

How would you describe yourself to someone who's never met you?
I'm friendly and I love meeting new people. Don't be shy if you see me. Say hi!

What are you most likely to be doing on any given Tuesday night?
Eating tacos!

Call my sexy friends!
1-800-SEXY-PET
XOXO

(1-800-739-9738)
Callers must be 18 or older. COST: $4.99 to $5.99/minute

SEE MORE OF JENNA
AT PENTHOUSE.COM.

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“I WAS THE GRIM REAPER SPINNING A SIGN FOR A COSTUME SHOP ON HALLOWEEN. THAT WAS THE WORST JOB EVER.”

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A|X
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TRAVEL IN STYLE

IT'S EASY TO FORGET A THING OR TWO WHEN YOU TRAVEL - WE'VE ALL DONE IT. BUT YOU SHOULD NEVER COMPROMISE ON STYLE. LOOK GOOD AND SMELL GOOD ALL THE TIME EVERY TIME WITH PENTHOUSE'S GUIDE TO TRAVELING IN STYLE.

PHOTOS BY: STEVEN POPOVICH

1

BOTTEGA VENETA
POUR HOMME
ESSENCE AROMATIQUE

2

ck2
Calvin Klein

3

DAVID BECKHAM
AQUA CLASSIC

4

GUCCI GUILTY
EAU

5

1 MILLION
COLOGNE
paco rabanne

COLOGNE

1 / BOTTEGA VENETA POUR HOMME ESSENCE AROMATIQUE EAU DE COLOGNE

This new fragrance by Bottega Veneta is an easy to wear cologne that's fresh and citrusy. It combines the blended scent of bergamot and coriander with hints of rose. Total chick magnet.

50ml from $78.19
90ml from $99.25

2 / CLAVIN KLEIN CK2

If you're after something a little more casual, CK2 will work for you. It's designed to have a fresh note but carries a little musk, which is not too overpowering once it settles on the skin.

Approx 30ml from $35.34
50ml from $45.95

3 / DAVID BECKHAM AQUA CLASSIC

David Beckham's Aqua Classic is the new cologne from his range to hit the market. Available from March, this cologne is refreshing and carries hints of lemon, which is perfect for daywear.

60ml, from $46

4 / GUCCI GUILTY EAU

Guilty EAU by Gucci is the ultimate date night fragrance. With a smoother take on the classic Guilty men's fragrance, it carries a romantic attitude and has a contrasting blend of woody orris, infused to the orange blossom signature of the original scent.

90ml, from $82.95

5 / PACO RABANNE 1 MILLION

If you're looking to pick up on holiday, this is the cologne for you. It has a fresh masculine scent with mandarin tones and a base note of leather. A scent that all chicks will seriously dig.

125ml from $82

CLOTHING

THE PENTHOUSE GUIDE TO TRAVELLING IN STYLE

WE all know that travelling is a pain and that it's best to carry as little as possible, especially when it starts to get hot.

To get you through the airport when travelling for work or from the east to west coast for the weekend to somewhere tropical like Hawaii, here's the Penthouse guide to what to wear.

SHORT TRAVEL

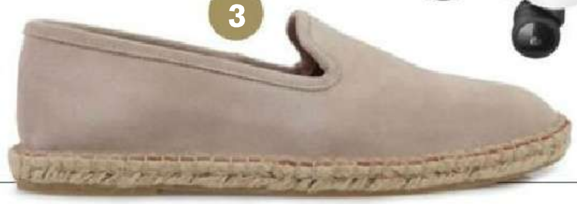
If it's a short trip from San Francisco to LA for the week, the best bet is a pair of shorts with a tee and a hoodie for the plane in case the a/c is blasting.

1 / This hoodie retailing at $275 by Matiere is made of 100% cotton for comfort. It's easy to carry and pack making it ideal for short travel.

2 / Doesn't matter where you go, you'll always need a tee and this stripe tee from Topman for $55 is light and has enough detailing to pass as a dressier sort of tee when you're too lazy to change the entire outfit at night.

3 / You know those moments when you just can't be bothered with laces and you just want to take your shoes off on the plane? Well these are the perfect shoe for you - they're easy to slide on and off and also to get around in.

4 / If you're not going for too long and want to avoid having to check in your bag, the Samsonite hardside suitcase for $269.99 is one of the best carry-ons. It's lightweight, made of a new polypropylene mix that makes it impact resistant and features double wheels for stabilty and a divider pad in the top compartment for easy and organized packing.



WORK TRAVEL

Lets face it, travelling for work is a pain, especially if it's for the day or the night and there's no way to avoid it. Here are some key items to get you through.

1 / This breathable linen shirt is cut slim and made to be worn in the warmer months. Great for travelling because of the breathable fabric, it also doubles up as a work shirt or as an off duty look with a pair of chinos.

2 / With its lightweight fabric, this Original Penguin jacket is perfect for spring and perfect to travel with. Not only do you get to look sharp in meetings but because the fabric is light, you also won't be sweating excessively. Retails at $225

3 / If you wanted to match the jacket there's the pants for $129 from Original Penguin. You can wear the combo as a suit, or separately… works either way.

4 / This Samsonite mobile office is one of the best things to happen to travelling for work. It comes with an adjustable laptop system for laptops of different sizes and features black nickel hardware for durability and style. Retails for $279.98.

5 / The Florsheim castellano, which sports a full grain leather upper, is made for all occasions from work to after work events. Dress to impress with this shoe that's designed with a fully cushioned footbed for utmost comfort.

GOING TROPICAL

If you're going somewhere tropical you need to travel light. Pack smart with a polo, pair of shorts and sneakers. The idea is to be able to wear an outfit from day to night, which is every lazy man's dream come true.

1 / Nothing beats a polo in spring. This Original Penguin Polo is great when travelling somewhere tropical. Made from 100% cotton, it's comfortable, easy to pack and a chick magnet. From $69.

2 / You'll need a pair of shorts, especially if your vacation is in Hawaii. These shorts from Topman retail at $40 and are a great investment for spring as they can be worn casually with a tank top, but also for date night with a button up.

3 / This Armani Exchange watch retailing at $160 is practical for tropical travel as it's water resistant to 165ft. This means you can hit the pool without taking your watch off.

4 / Double carrying handles define a classic duffel and this Herschel duffel available at Topman for $140 has more value than the average. With enough space to carry more than just your clothes, it's also been designed with an exterior zip shoe compartment to protect interior contents from dirt and grime.

5 / With a dressier pair of leather sneakers like the Gary's by Ecco, you won't need to pack more than one shoe when travelling. These retail from $100 and are designed for comfort and style.

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TriShave Travel Kit
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Lab Oil Control Face Wash
This Lab series oil control face wash is a concentrated liquid-to-foam wash that cleans the skin of dirt, pollution and excess oil. With a spill proof cap and for $38, it's ideal for guys with 'normal to oily' and 'oily' skin types.

Men Expert Hydra Energetic Ice Cool Eye Roll-On
As much as you might want to avoid a product like this, the L'Oréal Paris hydra energetic ice cool eye roll-on is an anti-fatigue roll-on for men that fights dark circles and eye-bags. It also has the double action of the physical massage that helps stimulate drainage of congested features with a unique ice cool formula. This is great for those long flights where you have to duck straight in to a meeting and you haven't had a snooze. Retails for $15.85

Clinique Men's Moisturizing Lotion
Clinique for Men's moisturizing lotion is a cream that provides all-day hydration and relieves dryness in dry to normal skin. Retailing at $39, it's inexpensive and keeps your skin feeling good.

Danne Montague-King boy's club
Instead of carrying various products in your suitcase, this pack, which works as a travel kit for $96, contains your everyday essentials. It has your face wash, cream and facial mist in a convenient toiletry kit that you can throw in your carry on.

TOP READS FOR THAT LONG FLIGHT

If you're traveling from east coast to west coast and have time to kill, these hard to put down reads will keep you occupied.

THE REVENANT
MICHAEL PUNKE
THE MARTIAN
ANDY WEIR
ULTIMATE TRAVELIST
EMPEROR OF THE EIGHT ISLANDS
The Tale of Shikanoko
LIAN HEARN

THE REVENANT

The Revenant is based on a true story and if you've seen the movie you're going to want to read the book. It's an epic tale of revenge about one man's scouting mission which puts him face to face with a grizzly bear where he is almost mauled to death. The book follows his determination to survive and his desire for revenge for those that abandoned him. From $8.80

……

THE MARTIAN

The Martian by Andy Weir is a worthwhile read that will more than keep you occupied. It follows the story of astronaut Mark Watney's journey to Mars and how he survives when a dust storm strikes, his crew evacuates and he's stranded with no way to signal earth that he's alive. With an ingenious plot that surprises again and again, it's hands down one of the best books to pick up and read on the plane. From $9.00

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ULTIMATE TRAVELIST

If you love traveling and uncovering the best spots, Lonely Planet has compiled 500 of the best places you should hit-up in their Ultimate Travelist. From $15.61

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TALE OF SHIKANOKO SERIES

If you're wanting to read something that's action packed, there's Lian Hearn's Tale of Shikanoko series. In the first book of the series, you will uncover a story of two rival clans struggling over who will be crowned the Emperor of the Eight Islands. This intriguing story is based in medieval Japan, where animal spirits and assassins existed alongside humans. From $14

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PURE INDULGENCE

This is Monica. She wasn't just hanging around in this massive upmarket mansion. We had to jump through all kinds of hoops to get access here. Seriously, we're thinking of submitting this to some kind of real estate magazine too, I mean would you check out the place? Anyway, enough frothing over the decor. As well as being an absolute babe, Monica is really cool, in a kind of art-school way. Okay. Enough reading now, enjoy the shoot.

Photography: Juliet Taylor **Fashion: Jana Bartolo** **Model: Monica**

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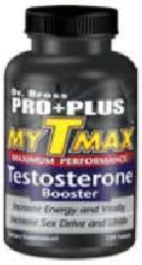
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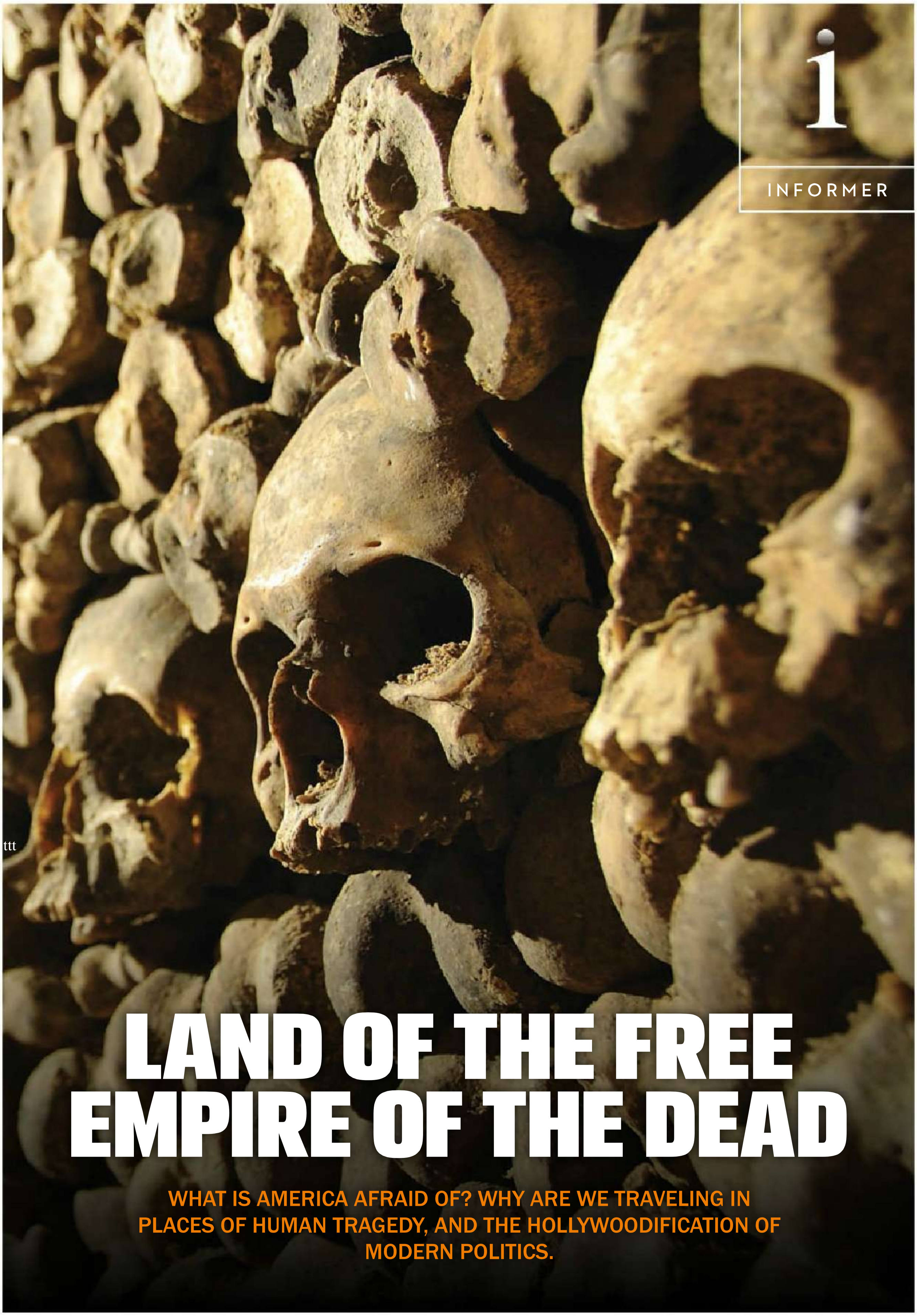

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LAND OF THE FREE EMPIRE OF THE DEAD

WHAT IS AMERICA AFRAID OF? WHY ARE WE TRAVELING IN PLACES OF HUMAN TRAGEDY, AND THE HOLLYWOODIFICATION OF MODERN POLITICS.

HOME OF THE FEAR

THE FEAR FROM WITHIN... ARE WE AS AMERICANS AFRAID OF OUR OWN SHADOW OR DO WE REALLY HAVE SOMETHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT?

BY MATT GALLAGHER

AMERICA likes to fashion itself the Home of the Brave. It might be time to update that. More like Home of The Fear.

What are we afraid of? Seemingly everything and anyone not swathed in Red, White and 'Murica. This includes Syrian widows and orphans, the undocumented from Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America who are, you know, already here and working, and even a Muslim family from Britain trying to go to Disney World over the holidays.

Little Amir in Mickey Ears? CALL IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.

It's not liberal hippie bullshit to suggest we're behaving like insane people afraid of our own shadows. Post-empire America is cutting an ugly, inhibiting look.

Then there are the loyal friends and allies who have risked their lives for our nation being left behind.

For over a decade now, veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq have fought the U.S. government to save the people who saved them overseas. Organizations like The List Project and No One Left Behind have worked to resettle local allies and their families in the States, battling the wilds of bureaucracy time and time again. These allies worked in a variety of capacities for the American war machine, such as serving as interpreters for ground forces, and are often being targeted by area insurgents.

The List Project emerged from the experiences of Kirk Johnson, who served as a regional coordinator for USAID in Iraq. After returning home, he received a message from an Iraqi partner who'd discovered a severed dog's head on his front steps with a note: "Your head will be next." Former Army officer Matthew Zeller founded No One Left Behind to help resettle the Afghan

AFTER RETURNING HOME, HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM AN IRAQI PARTNER WHO'D DISCOVERED A SEVERED DOG'S HEAD ON HIS FRONT STEPS WITH A NOTE: "YOUR HEAD WILL BE NEXT."

interpreter who saved his life during a lengthy Taliban ambush.

Despite the pronounced efforts of these nonprofits and others, and recent reform of the Special Immigrant Visa program, estimates of resettled Afghans and Iraqis number in the low thousands. Over 50,000 have served as interpreters over the course of our terror wars.

These foreign-born men and women have done more for American interests and ideals than most native citizens will ever dream of contributing.

Slogging through the bureaucracy has been one solution. Going around it has proven another. I have one veteran friend who told his interpreter how to best sneak into Europe, where at least he'd be safe from the militias. Another paid thousands to get his a fake passport for a nearby country. Still another married his.

It's not a matter of if we abandoned these allies to their fates. We have. It's a matter of how many.

Now comes the Syrian refugee crisis. It's not just a byzantine process failing them, though, or a collective ignorance and inattention. A nation betraying its own conscience has.

According to the UN, more than four million Syrians have fled their homeland since civil war broke out. More than seven million are displaced. While specifics can be debated, the fact that U.S. foreign policy helped cause the Syrian civil war cannot be. As American citizens and taxpayers, we are all responsible. Yet according to various polls conducted in late 2015 and early 2016, a majority of the American population would ban Syrian refugees from the country outright. Not unlike the process for interpreters hoping to immigrate, our government has imposed nigh-impossible screening standards for these refugees, an administrative delaying tactic as obvious as it is craven.

The Obama administration has pledged to take in 10,000 Syrian refugees in 2016—not a paltry number, but still far too little, given what countries like Germany are doing, and our history as the land that welcomes the tired, poor and huddled masses. And unless the U.S. screening process gets streamlined, it's doubtful that even 10,000 Syrians seeking asylum will be living in America by year's end. Only 2,000 or so Syrians made it through the process the past four years combined.

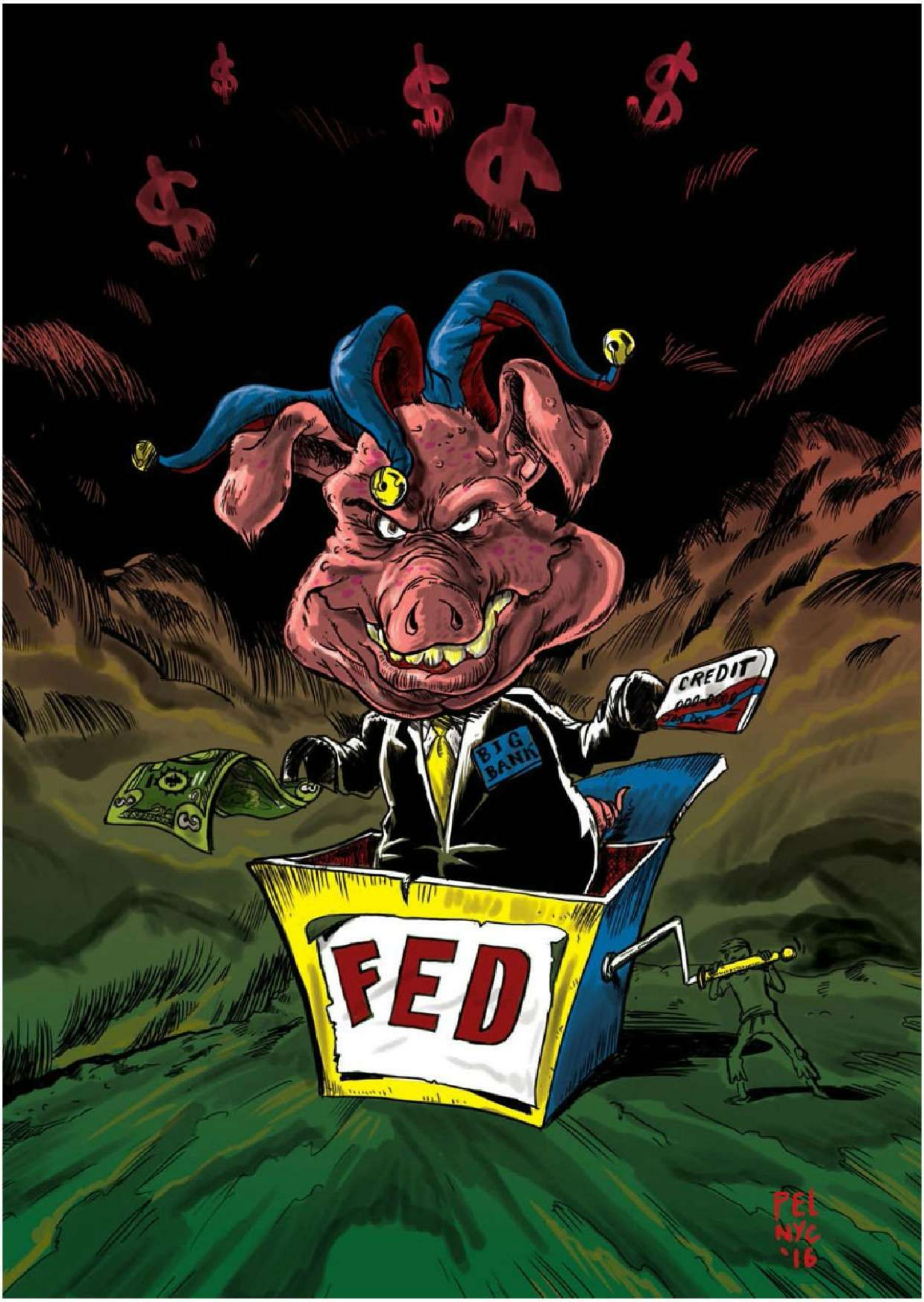
The Fear is turning America into a fortress. We were founded to be anything but.

It also seems implausible a terrorist would use the asylum process to gain entry into the U.S. For one, there are simply quicker and easier entries into the States. And two, case studies of terrorist attacks such as one conducted by The Intercept in November suggest authorities almost always already know about the jihadis involved. Unknown assailants are the rare exception. Better and more precise targeting of subjects of interest is what will stop future attacks, not casting a wider net.

Welcoming in more Syrian refugees isn't just a moral issue, either. It's sound strategy. By proving we are the America we proclaim to be, we undercut the propaganda of Islamic extremism with hard evidence. We stop talking about how great we are and we show it. We also cut into the recruitment of the next generation of potential jihadis being fostered in displacement camps in the Middle East and Europe right now, where radicalism can form in the midst of severe neglect and strife.

One Doctor of Gonzo, the late, great Hunter S. Thompson, once famously (and facetiously) wrote, "The lid is on. Loose lips sink ships. Don't say anything that might give aid to the enemy."

Thompson wrote those words the morning of September 12, 2001, as the smoke from the fallen towers still lingered. Sometimes that seems like a long time ago, from a different country, directed to a different people. Other times not so much. The lid is on, indeed, and it sure doesn't seem like it's coming off anytime soon. The Fear. It's real and it's strong.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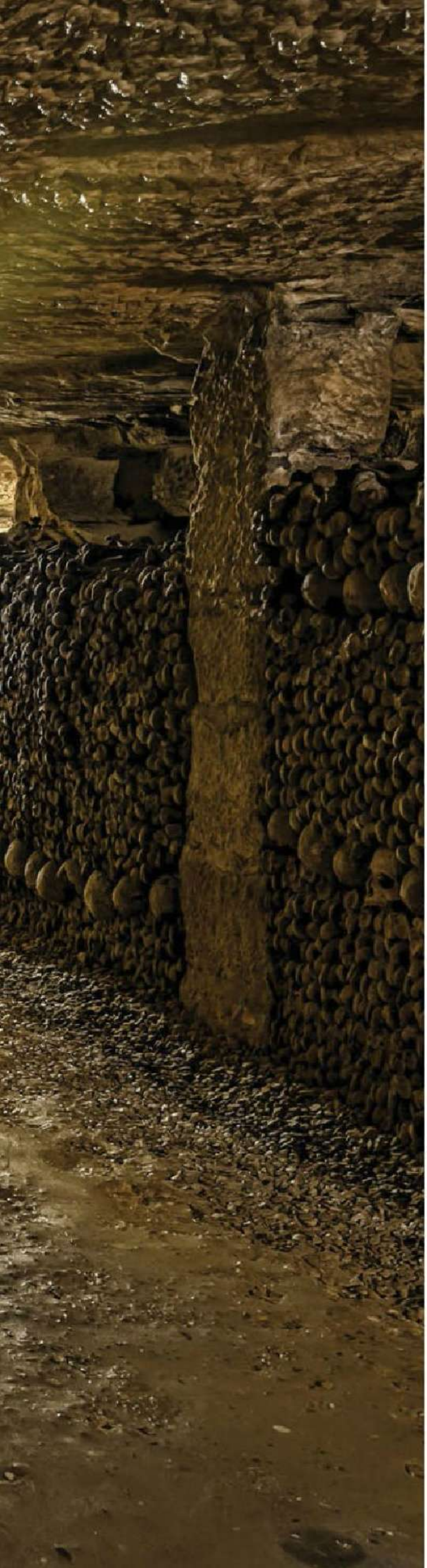


SIGHTSEEING IN THE EMPIRES OF THE DEAD

WHAT DO DEATH, SUFFERING AND TOURISM HAVE IN COMMON? DARK TOURISM IS ON THE RISE AND FOR JUST $15 YOU CAN GET YOUR FIX OF HUMAN MISERY.

BY RYAN WITTINGSLOW

As you descend into the Parisian catacombs, buried deep under the 14th arrondissement, you pass through a portal over which is inscribed a stone warning: "Arrête! C'est ici l'empire de la mort." Stop! This is the empire of the dead.

Past the portal, the air is cool and slightly musty, pregnant with the fading odor of the bones of nearly seven million Parisians. Ordered by type, the bones—skulls, femurs, ribs, vertebrae—line the walls in neatly stacked rows, mutely appraising the hefty American tourists who lumber through their halls.

In spite of the unsettling surroundings, there is something weirdly sacred about the place—as if the tunnels have been afforded dignity by death and the weight of years.

The sepulchral mood in the catacombs exists in spite of its history. Although the tunnels were blessed by priests before the bodies were interred, the catacombs were originally a civic solution to Paris' overflowing cemeteries.

In the 1760s, residents of the Les Halles neighborhood—near Les Innocents, the city's largest cemetery—began to complain of vile fumes advancing out of the soil. Indeed, it got so bad that not even the neighborhood perfumeries could compete with the riotous stench of rotting flesh.

In response, Louis XV issued an edict that no more corpses were to be buried within the bounds of Paris, with the cemeteries to be moved several miles out into the countryside. Unfortunately for Louis—not to mention the desperate perfumers—resistance from the Catholic Church meant that the edict was never enforced.

It wasn't until 1780 that an extended spring rain forced a decision on the issue: one of Les Innocents' retaining walls gave way, and a veritable parade of decomposing bodies poured into the basement room of a neighboring property. In response, the city's cemeteries were finally emptied, and the miles of abandoned mine tunnels beneath Paris found a new purpose: as a vast mausoleum for the city's departed.

After that, the tunnels' status as a tourist destination was assured. The ossuary now sees thousands of visitors every day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Entry costs approximately $15. Welcome to the empire of the dead.

In a revelation that I imagine will shock absolutely no one, human beings are excellent at generating excuses to visit sites of particular trauma or ghoulishness: cemeteries, war zones, concentration camps, mental asylums.

Commonly referred to as 'dark tourism' or 'thanatourism' (from Thanatos, the Ancient Greek personification of death), this practice is a form of holidaymaking in which death and tragedy have been monetized for a hungry public.

The appeal of dark tourism can be used to explain a broad class of tourist locations: the Paris catacombs; Pripyat, the site of the Chernobyl disaster; the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Japan; the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Cambodia; Port Arthur (the site of both a convict jail and the infamous massacre); the Robben Island Prison Museum near Cape Town; concentration camps such as those at Auschwitz, Dachau and Stutthof.

Although the evils that befell these places wildly differ, they are all places where tourists can consume "death and suffering in touristic form, seemingly in the guise of education and/or entertainment," in the words of Philip Stone, executive director for the Institute for Dark Tourism Research at the University of Central Lancashire.

'

FROM PILGRIMAGES TO SEE BITS OF DEAD SAINTS, TO GUIDED TOURS OF MENTAL ASYLUMS, TO THE DEATH MASKS HELD IN WAX MUSEUMS LIKE MADAME TUSSAUD'S, HISTORY SHOWS THAT OUR APPETITE FOR BLOOD REMAINS UNDIMINISHED.

'

My fiancée–a ghoulish woman herself–has a penchant for these sorts of places. Although I'll freely admit that I was moved to a delighted grin the first time I visited the London Dungeon and its concocted torture chambers, her ardor approaches the terrifying.

"Well, I think everybody loves a good ghost story," she told me over this morning's coffee. "The difference here is that instead of yelling, 'No you fool! Don't go into the basement without a light!' you are struck by the fact that these things happened, and to people just like you. The story isn't about what hides in the dark, but the dark itself, and how all of us are consumed by it. Their stories are our stories."

A grim sentiment, but she's hardly alone. As their residents can attest, cities with violent pasts–London, Sydney, Warsaw, Salem, to name a few–are prone to this sort of thing; they are absolutely lousy with ghost tours and other expeditions of the macabre.

Nonetheless, motivated by tragedy, this sort of thing can happen anywhere. As Stone told The Guardian in 2013: "It's the commercialization of death. Take the Flight 93 crash site. Soon after it happened farmers were selling tours of the field."

Though it might seem mercenary for a private entity to sell tickets to a disaster, the fact that those methods work is undeniable. "But now there's an established memorial," Stone concludes. "There's been a process of commercialization from that initial demand to becoming a formal destination."

It's worth noting that this is not a recent trend. Tempting though it might be, we cannot blame postmodernity for the inhumanity of man against man; it is not as though the Great Recession has left us with an unquenchable thirst for human gore.

While it's true that before the 16th century it was uncommon for people to move around much (the occasional Crusade notwithstanding), our ancestors certainly shared our grim appetites. Though dark tourism might seem like a contemporary phenomenon, there are distinct historical antecedents.

"You can make an argument that with some of his very first tour groups, Thomas Cook took people to see hangings in Cornwall," Stone notes, speaking of the founder of the eponymous travel agency.

Although our delicate sensibilities shiver at the idea now, for many hundreds of years, public executions were a mainstay of the social calendar. Crowds were attended by hawkers loudly selling snacks and souvenirs, while troubadours and other wags would sing ballads describing the exploits of the condemned.

Eyewitness reports of the period describe the frenetic, almost frothy excitement of the crowds as the bodies dropped through the gallows floor and noodled about in the void below, or the joyous clamor when the executioner's axe severed head from body.

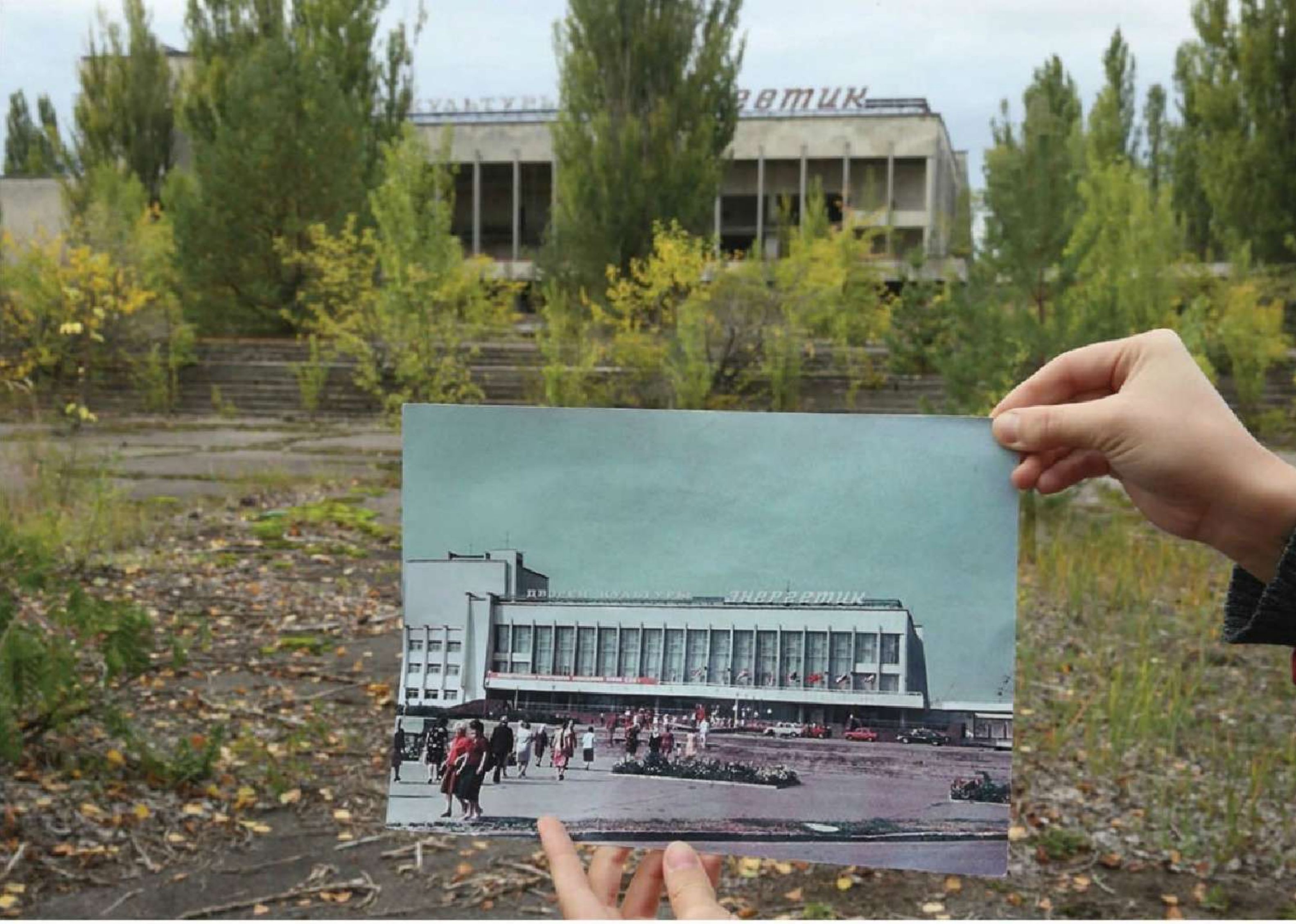
Don't make the mistake of thinking that this is a strictly historical phenomenon, either. In the early morning of the 17th of July, 1939, Eugéne Weidmann had the dubious honor of being the last person to be publicly executed by guillotine. At the news, a large crowd clamored outside Versailles Prison, awaiting the bloody spectacle.

Paris-Soir, a news daily of the period, described the crowd's activities as "disgusting," "unruly," and "jostling, clamoring, whistling"; in fact they were so disruptive that the execution itself was delayed by a number of hours.

It is further reported that women hung around after the execution, waiting for an opportunity to dip their handkerchiefs in the blood of the deceased–blood which stained the footpath a deep, ruby red.

Local officials were horrified. For centuries, the purported justification for public executions was that the watching rabble would be terrified into obeisance, with the gory death a salutary moral lesson. After Weidmann's execution, however, it became obvious to French officials that it encouraged quite the opposite effect: rowdiness, agitation, an orgiastic lust for violence.

These predilections did not only find expression in public executions, however. From pilgrimages to see bits of dead saints, to guided tours of mental asylums, to the death masks held in wax museums like Madame Tussaud's, history shows that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our appetite for blood remains undiminished.

Recently, a number of news organs have reported that dark tourism is on the rise.

No doubt thanks to a hideous confection of blood lust and the death throes of late capitalism (and helped along by the success of Vice Travel and Anthony Bourdain's television travelogues), this macabre corner of the market is experiencing an undeniable boom.

Thankfully, most contemporary dark tourism is relatively benign. In 2015, Airbnb gave fans the opportunity to stay overnight in the Paris catacombs over Halloween; visitors to the Cu Chi tunnels in Vietnam can fire authentic Viet Cong weaponry; those with a masochistic streak can spend an evening trapped in a former Stasi bunker in Rennsteighöhe, being berated by men dressed as DDR officers.

Perhaps the most well-known of these ventures is an outfit called Political Tours, founded in 2009 by Nicholas Wood, a former New York Times foreign correspondent. "We work like a newspaper editor," he says. "We know how to put a tour together–we have all of these elements and it's like building a story."

At the time of writing, Political Tours offers all-inclusive trips to Kosovo, Bosnia, Russia, North Korea, and South Ossetia. Back in 2014, they offered a tour called "Libya: After the Revolution," which included visits to Muammar Qaddafi's former compound and the Abu Salim prison: the site of a massacre in 1996 where an estimated 1,270 prisoners were killed.

‘

WHEN SOMEONE WE KNOW DIES, BODIES ARE KEPT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND IN CASKETS; PEOPLE DIE IN HOSPITALS AND HOSPICES, THEIR CORPSES WHISKED AWAY SMOOTHLY AND INVISIBLY.

’

For Wood, there is a strictly economic rationale for offering these sorts of services. "People can travel by themselves so much more easily now, so if you're going to be in the travel market, you have to bring added value," he says.

While we're not quite at the point where Contiki is offering dark tourism packages along with its bus tours and carefully scheduled hedonism, perhaps that outcome isn't as far off as you might think. "What's changing is how these trips are being formalized through the tourism industry, as well as the fact that technology and the Internet are also picking up on it," Philip Stone explains.

At the same time that corporate concerns are waking up to the commercial value of dark tourism, more adventurous dark tourists are beginning to travel independently for the explicit purpose of watching geopolitical tragedies unfold firsthand.

In 2005, New Orleans was a popular destination among this cohort, as hundreds of travelers documented the destruction and human misery wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

More recently, and although safely in the hands of Syrian rebels at the time of writing, the Israel-occupied portion of Golan Heights was for a period a mecca for sightseers keen for a glimpse of the Syrian Civil War.

“People come here every day to see the show,” Marom, a retired IDF colonel, told The Atlantic back in 2014. “For people visiting the area, it’s interesting. They feel that they are a part of it. They can go home and tell their friends, ‘I was on the border and I saw a battle.’”

Today, Ukraine and North Korea are dark tourism catnip: the former thanks to the ongoing disputes between Ukrainian forces and Russian-backed militia; the latter thanks to the undeniable mystique of the hermit kingdom.

Both are enormously–if impersonally–dangerous; both places are the sites of untold, unrelenting human suffering. The implications might be disturbing, but in spite of–or perhaps because of–those facts, something about these places beckon to us; they demand our attention.

This much seems obvious. Nonetheless, a question remains: why?

Dead bodies smell like licorice and peaches, at least at first.

When a person dies and their immune system ceases to function, their gut microbiome begins the process of decomposition. First, go the intestines, followed soon afterwards by the spleen and stomach.

This riot of gut flora then begins to break down the soft tissue into its constituent parts: salts, liquids, gases. Anaerobic bacteria–that is, bacteria that don’t require oxygen to grow–get in on the act, consuming sugars and farting out methane, hydrogen sulphide, and ammonia. This causes the body to bloat.

As the body fills with gas, the remaining tissue begins to hemorrhage and rupture. The skin goes blue-black, and starts to slough off in sheets. Finally, the corpse purges the gases and liquefied tissues that remain in the body through the mouth and anus.

> **‘**
>
> **WE OUTSOURCE OUR DEATH TO FUNERAL HOMES AND CORPORATIONS, AND THAT LEAVES PEOPLE HUNGRY FOR SOME KIND OF HONEST RELATIONSHIP WITH MORTALITY.**
>
> **’**

Occasionally, the abdomen bursts, like the least helpful fire hydrant in the world.

Of course, short of adopting some of Norman Bates’ less savory peculiarities, I have no way of confirming these facts firsthand; although I’m a fellow reasonably experienced in the game of life, corpses are unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, beyond the purview of my experience. All I know about bodily decomposition is what I’ve read.

Nor do I think it unusual that I’ve had so little personal experience with death. Although I certainly know people who have died, and have been to a number of funerals, the bodies have always been hidden behind administrative processes or in wooden caskets.

It’s a macabre game of now-you-see-me-now-you-don’t.

Life means presence. Death means absence.

My experiences, and experiences like mine, are evidence that Western culture has fallen out of touch with the reality of death. Or at least, so claims Caitlin Doughty, author of Smoke Gets in Your Eyes and founder of The Order of the Good Death–an organization that prepares “death-phobic culture for their inevitable mortality.”

It is to our collective detriment, she says, that Westerners are so death-averse. Not in the sense of action movies or video games, obviously; no one is denying the visceral satisfaction of watching John McClane let Hans Gruber fall to his death at Nakatomi Plaza. Instead, she means something a little closer to home.

When someone we know dies, bodies are kept behind closed doors and in caskets; people die in hospitals and hospices, their corpses whisked away smoothly and invisibly. We have an abstracted relationship with the ends of our lives; while death has not been bested, she has certainly been made to behave.

This, according to Doughty, is part of the problem. “We no longer live in an era where the dead body is laid out in the front parlor, washed, and cared for, and waked by the family,” she says. “We outsource our death to funeral homes and corporations, and that leaves people hungry for some kind of honest relationship with mortality.”

Thanks to the media we produce and consume, the death that we do encounter is stylized, bombastic, technicolor. Or sometimes it is quiet, staid, mournful. Occasionally, it might even be comedic.

Rarely though are we reminded of the brute physicality of death. Rarely are we confronted with the fact that something happened, and it happened here, and it happened to someone just like you.

Although it might be a bit much to call dark tourism an ‘honest relationship with mortality,’ it’s not a huge stretch to think that the appeal lies in somehow, if imperfectly, reconciling ourselves with the fact that we too shall die.

Being a dark tourist means coming to terms with that fact, regardless of whether or not we want to. It doesn’t matter if the destination is an ossuary, a concentration camp, or a war zone, or whether the location is heartbreaking, voyeuristic, or kitsch; they are places on the very edge of life and death.

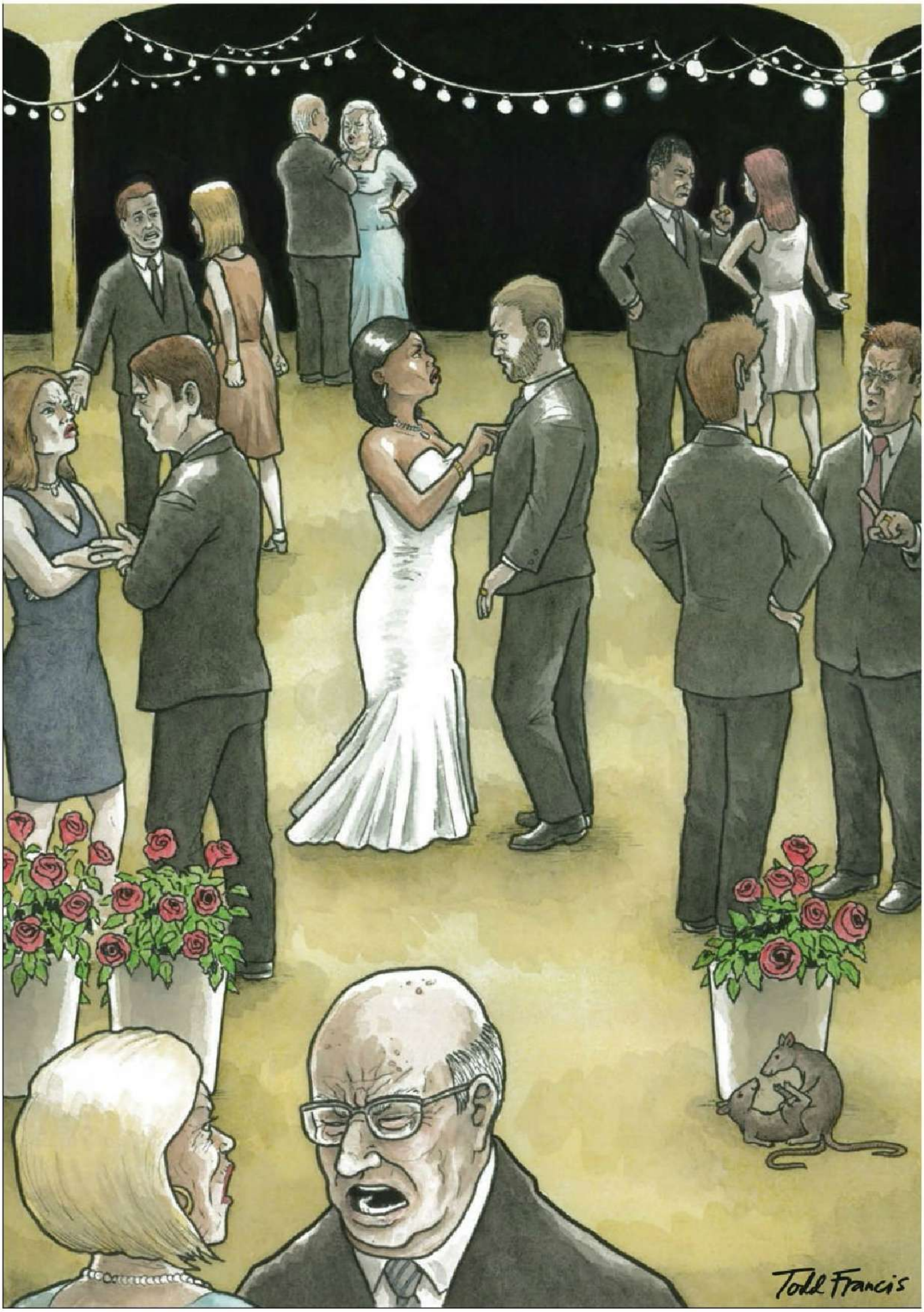
“Time collapses when I am standing alone in a charnel house,” Paul Koudounaris, author of death photography book Memento Mori, told The Guardian in 2015.

“I think that is why they made such effective liminal spaces. They enforce upon me the lesson that no matter who we are and how different we seem to be, we are all part of and subject to a greater cycle–a cycle which in the end ensures that we all end up unified and largely undifferentiated.”

This, I think, is the key to the puzzle. The bones and the death and the tragedy of these places address us mutely. “I was once like you,” they accuse. “You too will soon be like me.”

In a way, the motivation behind public executions wasn’t entirely wrong: there is a moral lesson at the heart of dark tourism. However, rather than scaring us straight, it simply forces us to admit to ourselves that we too will one day shuffle off our mortal coils.

Like the slave who sits behind the emperor in Tertullian’s Apologeticus, the acknowledgment keeps us honest. It’s a bit hard to be vainglorious when the specter of death is lurking around every corner.


Todd Francis

FEMALE HYSTERIA THROUGH HISTORY

THERE'S A 'BUZZ' SURROUNDING THE TRADITIONAL CURE FOR FEMALE HYSTERIA.

IN the 19th century hysteria was a fairly common medical diagnosis that applied exclusively to women. The symptoms varied wildly, ranging from faintness and nervousness, to sexual desire and the ominously vague 'tendency to cause trouble.' Today, we still use the word to refer to an uncontrolled emotional outburst, however its meaning is deeply rooted in the medicalization of female behavior that, at the time, was considered abnormal or otherwise untoward.

Initially, it was thought that hysteria was caused by a 'wandering womb' – which is how the condition earned its name – hystera being the Greek word for womb. The womb, according to the classical philosopher Plato, was like 'an animal within an animal,' prone to moving about on its own accord – often seeking out 'fragrant smells' and avoiding 'fetid' ones. Today, of course, this all seems ridiculous–however, the words of humorist Mark Twain come to mind: "it's no wonder truth is stranger than fiction. Fiction has to make sense."

Not only did they grow weary of the effort it took to get their patients off, but their prudish, 19th century sensibilities were offended by the nature of the work. And so, being industrious men, they found a mechanical vibrating device to do the job for them. This, as you have no doubt already guessed, is the weird origin story of the vibrator.

The first vibrator was invented as a method for stimulating spinal nerves in men, to improve memory and cognition. The original inventor was inexplicably adverse to the idea of using the invention to give women orgasms, but this didn't seem to deter doctors all over the world from applying it in this way.

After these developments, it didn't take long for the vibrator to find its way into women's rooms all over America. Women, it seemed, could not get enough of this revolutionary new 'treatment.'

The first vibrator–frighteningly named 'the manipulator'–resembled something that would look more at home in a medieval torture chamber than the boudoir. They were large, ungainly, steam-powered, coal-fired contraptions that weighed several pounds. Not exactly something you keep tucked away in the bottom drawer.

'THE MANIPULATOR' RESEMBLED SOMETHING THAT WOULD LOOK MORE AT HOME IN A TORTURE CHAMBER THAN THE BOUDOIR.

The story continues in the 19th century, with doctors throughout the modern world categorizing, analyzing and treating hysterical women. As previously mentioned, symptoms for hysteria were vague and broad–enough so that practically any woman could be diagnosed as having the condition–to the extent that at one point it was thought that approximately a quarter of the female population was afflicted.

Of course, the medical community, with only their patient's best interest in mind, developed an ingenious treatment for this widespread 'epidemic.' A 'pelvic massage'–which is exactly what you think it is. Doctors believed that male semen would mingle with female semen in the womb and become toxic if not released. So the good doctor would help his patient through manual stimulation of the clitoris until she experienced hysterical paroxysm, or as we know it, until she came like a waterfall.

There was only one issue, however. Even though we're sure there are many men out there who would selflessly take up this vocation, these doctors were from a very different world.

By the 1920s vibrators were making appearances in pornography, thus dispelling any illusion of their supposed medical purpose. In the 1960s, therapists were recommending them for sexual dysfunction and in the 70s feminists had united around the vibrator as a symbol for female sexual liberation.

In the current day, vibrators and dildos are all but normalized. According to a recent study, more than half of women acknowledged using one–with their use considered to be synonymous with positive sexual health.

It is strange to think that it took a sexually repressed Victorian culture and a frightening lack of medical understanding to produce one of the most celebrated sexual icons–but ultimately Mark Twain had it right – truth really is stranger than fiction.

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ELECTION 2016

REPUBLICAN
DEBATE

THIS COUNTRY NEEDS HEALED

GOP PRIMARY CONTESTANTS HAVE ONLY ONE ANSWER - IT'S OBAMA'S FAULT.

BY STEVE FABER

THE story-teller must always resolve whatever is hanging in the cliffhanger. In Washingwood, where Hollywood stories–fictions–are made whole cloth by a series of demi-truths told by the pundits, sold by the politicians, and puked up by the candidates pursuing higher office, that hanging whatever, is the GOP nomination for the office of the Presidency. Last month I compared the fight for that nomination to a cage fight, and just when I thought that the fight, and the analogy, could not become more degraded and vile, the GOP decided to hold one last debate on January 14, 2016 (on the Fox Business Network ... which took some effort on my part. Turns out I did have FBN as part of my cable package. Who knew?). I use the word "debate" not in the traditional sense i.e., a formal discussion on a particular topic or topics in which opposing arguments are put forward. No, rather I use the word debate to describe a petulant food fight between seven grown up, wealthy guys who either need a nap or their diapers changed or perhaps just another career trajectory. I believe one of these seven men will be the Republican nominee and possibly President of the United States (I've given up on the undercard. No one can explain why Rick Santorum or Carly Fiorina or Rand Paul are relevant. Even 98 percent of Republicans don't want them. That's life. Take the hint and take a hike. No means No). And given this was the last debate before the Iowa Caucuses and the New Hampshire primary (you'll have the advantage of knowing the winner of that odd event in Iowa and the somewhat redundant New Hampshire primary, as I write this prior to both...contests), I feel it somewhat important to describe what may be in your future.

I'll break it to you gently. It doesn't look good. Your future. If the debate I witnessed was any indication of the way this country may be governed, you just might want to look into affordable housing in, say, Denmark. Or Poland. Or Thailand. Or AnywhereButHereistan. The logic being that the country will never elect a socialist from Brooklyn (I would. The country? No chance. Maybe a few recessions down the road), thus the country would be asked to throw in with Hillary Clinton, who just can't...I'm not sure how to describe it, nobody does... connect with the other human beings. But connect doesn't capture it. It's more like a palpable... thing... you don't want it but you probably need it... like brussel sprouts. Because they're full of vitamins, yet they taste like shit. Hillary Clinton is a brussel sprout. Thus the country turns to the GOP, and I turn to the stage and the debate.

The theme of the debate? "IT'S OBAMA'S FAULT. EVERYTHING. OBAMA'S. FAULT. PERIOD."

Oh how mightily the moderators tried, for a good five minutes, to keep these bozos on topic, but these candidates have so many debts to pay and brands to push, the network might as well have put up a big middle finger, when the "your time's over" buzzer sounded.

They began by addressing the issue of the economy. Ted Cruz began addressing the issue of the economy by explaining that President Obama is in love with Iran. Apparently, Obama's lust for the Mullahs in Iran knows no bounds. Flowers, sexting, etc.? Who knows how deep this Persian yearning is consecrated and made manifest within the President's soul? Ted does. The economy? Oops! Out of time. But he did add the economy was Obama's fault.

Governor Kasich did address the economy by stating firmly that he would "freeze all federal programs for a year." Why a year? Why not sixteen months? Eight months? Why freeze them at all? We don't know. We do know that whatever's been left to thaw, thus have not been frozen....those things are Obama's fault (and now seems an appropriate time to describe to you what "Obama's fault" means. It means Obama's fault and Hillary's fault. Yes, there's Hillary cover-fire for every "Obama's Fault" grenade tossed).

Christie took the economy issue and swiftly pivoted to ISIS, attempting to tie our economic problems to Obama's ISIS policy and the President's refusal to send ground troops to Syria. That being said, Christie believes we need to talk to our allies (this was a constant theme with most of the candidates: Ostensibly when Barack Obama was elected in 2008, "our allies" called and Obama wouldn't take the call. Then when re-elected, Obama doubled down and crank-called "our allies" while they were sleeping. That crap you read about "our allies" on the public restroom wall? Obama wrote it). But Christie believes we should talk to our enemies, as well. It was confusing. We should talk to everybody, except the people Obama is talking to, and especially those to whom he's not talking. It sounded like a kindergarten lesson.

> ‘ **I'LL BREAK IT TO YOU GENTLY. IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. YOUR FUTURE. IF THE DEBATE I WITNESSED WAS ANY INDICATION OF THE WAY THIS COUNTRY WILL BE GOVERNED** ’

Jeb Bush used the economy issue to verbally trot out a Major General of the U.S. Army and explain to us that this officer endorsed Jeb Bush. Still theoretically on the economy, Bush shared a secret: This Army guy told Bush that Obama "gutted" every single weapons system we have. In the middle of the night, I suppose, Obama figured out how to destroy every big weapon we've developed, as he was trying to take your guns away. Thus, Obama HIMSELF was a "national security threat." I understand that Jeb Bush is polling just slightly above your neighborhood crack dealer and needs to make headlines, but telling us that the President of the United States has, himself, some secret nefarious agenda...I mean...it's Mission Fucking Impossible, Jeb. The accusation didn't make the pundits or the papers. Even his supporters didn't turn on their hearing aids. You can't go bigger than accusing the President of having traitorous and treacherous intentions. That's about as big as one can go. So... it's over, Jeb. Pay back the loans and head back to Boca. Take a nap.

The debate turned to foreign policy. Rubio on "lone wolf" attacks: They're Obama and Hillary's fault. Why? Because both Obama and Hillary turned America (and this is a head-spinner) into an "apologetic world power." What does that mean? An apologetic world power? We send a drone to Syria, we drop a bomb, we say "fuck you!" and then a couple of days later we send Syria a text that says "wanna talk?" with a ponderous emoji?

Carson waded into the foreign policy pond that he should know, by now, he ought best stay out of. Radical jihadist terrorism? Obama's fault. And the Obama-Clinton doctrine will lead to (you need to sit down for this): Attacks on our exoatmosphere, followed by Chinese cyber attacks, followed by Russian and-or Chinese dirty bombs, followed by lone wolf attacks, all coordinated by one Chinese-Russian-Jihadist... entity, I suppose. And, yes, look up our exoatmosphere. It has nothing to do with us. Unless you live in another galaxy...it's not relevant. Makes you kind of wonder: When and precisely why did Dr. Ben Carson go completely insane? I mean... what happened?

Trump, in his foreign policy diatribe, which is without substance, keeps saying something that is either the funniest bit of dark humor, or offensive, depending on your point of view. And he's done this a number of times. Trump points to the victims of the Paris and San Bernardino attacks, those horrific terrorist nightmares, and mentions the dead and those "who may not, probably won't make it." If I'm one of those people, wounded, laying in a hospital bed and the TV is on and this fucker is telling me I may not make it? I'm calling my doctor, for starters. Then the nurse is changing the channel. No argument.

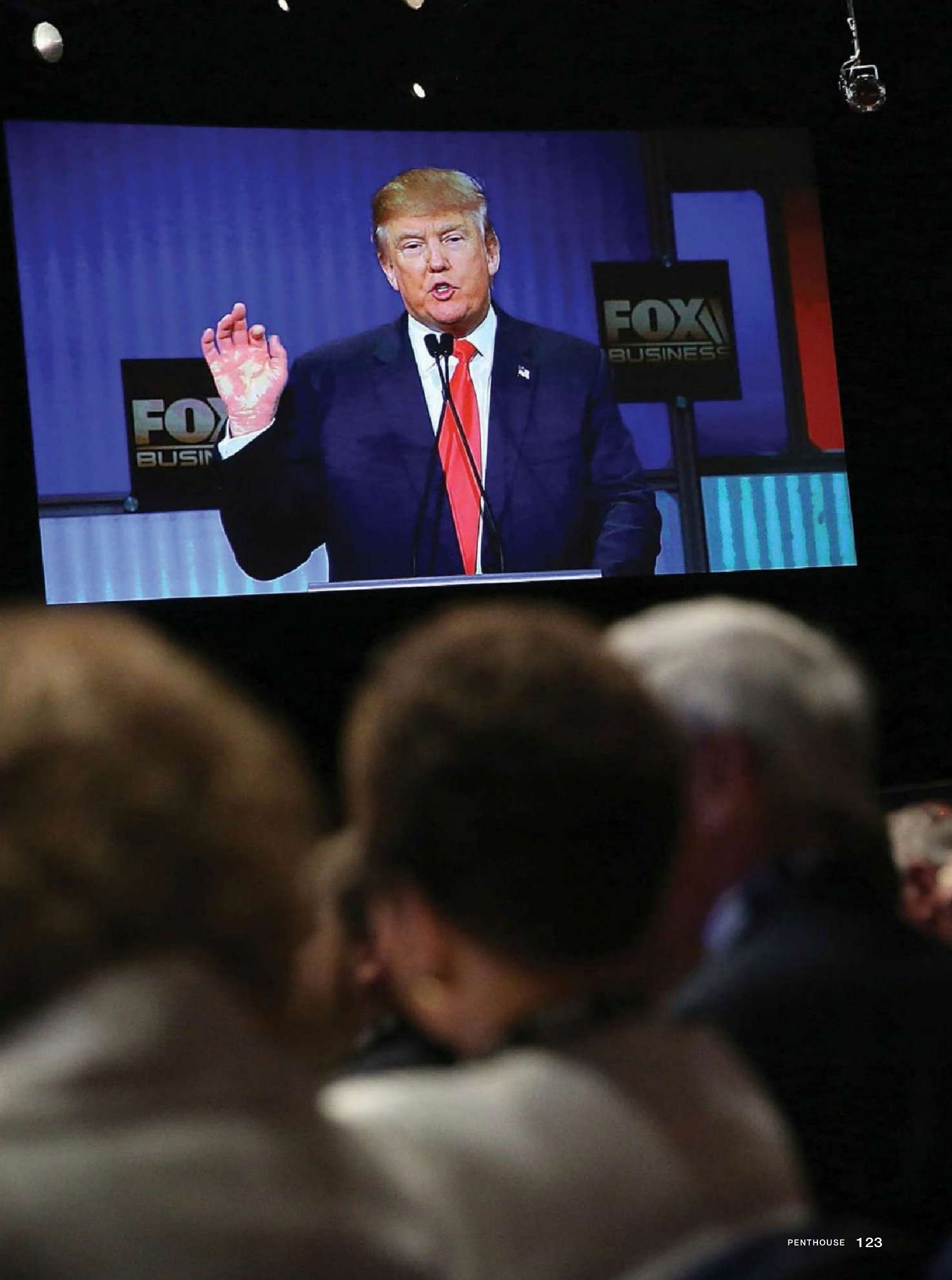
Cruz was accused of taking an improper million-dollar loan from Goldman-Sachs while his wife was working at Goldman-Sachs. The New York Times broke this story. When asked about it at the debate, Cruz compared the whole affair to the horror film "It Follows," and asserted that the Times compared, him, Cruz, to a "zombie." Make mine a double. And after that silliness, Cruz was forced to explain what his comment about Trump having "New York values" meant. Remember Carly Fiorina's retort to a Trump remark regarding her looks? She said, "Every woman who heard Mr. Trump knew exactly what he meant." Well, Ted Cruz, when you talk about someone having "New York values" every Jew, Italian, Puerto Rican, etc., knows what you mean. His spin team couldn't let it go. New York has "big sandwiches and pushy people," said a Cruz operative. Hmm. If that line wins Ted Cruz the Iowa caucus, he's going to have lots of explaining to do as he moves nor 'easterly.

This seemed to throw everyone off. Without their political handlers nearby to whisper in their ears, did they have New York values? Should they have New York values? What are New York values and are they politically valuable? Or are New York values a liability?

No one seemed to know. Governor Kasich, probably the most reasonable of those on the main stage, who is running at about five percent in the polls because he is probably the most reasonable on the main stage, tried to sum it up: "Look," he said. "This country needs healed."

Sure, it was grammatically incorrect. And yes, John Kasich looks like the guy who hangs out at the local bar beginning at 4 p.m. every workday when he leaves his job as the cynical "Oh, Fuck it, I give up," High School Counselor. And though he barely had the energy to spit it out, acting as a sort of political Willy Loman, he was clearly correct. This country needs healed. Badly.

And it's Obama's fault.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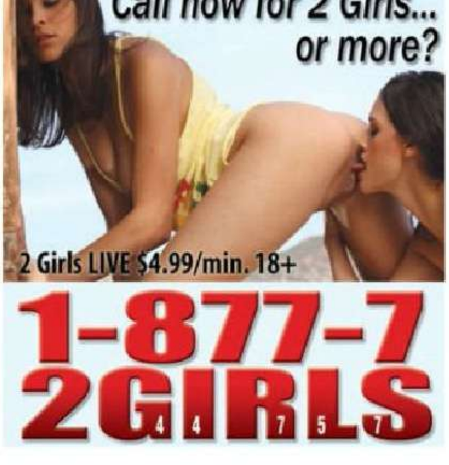
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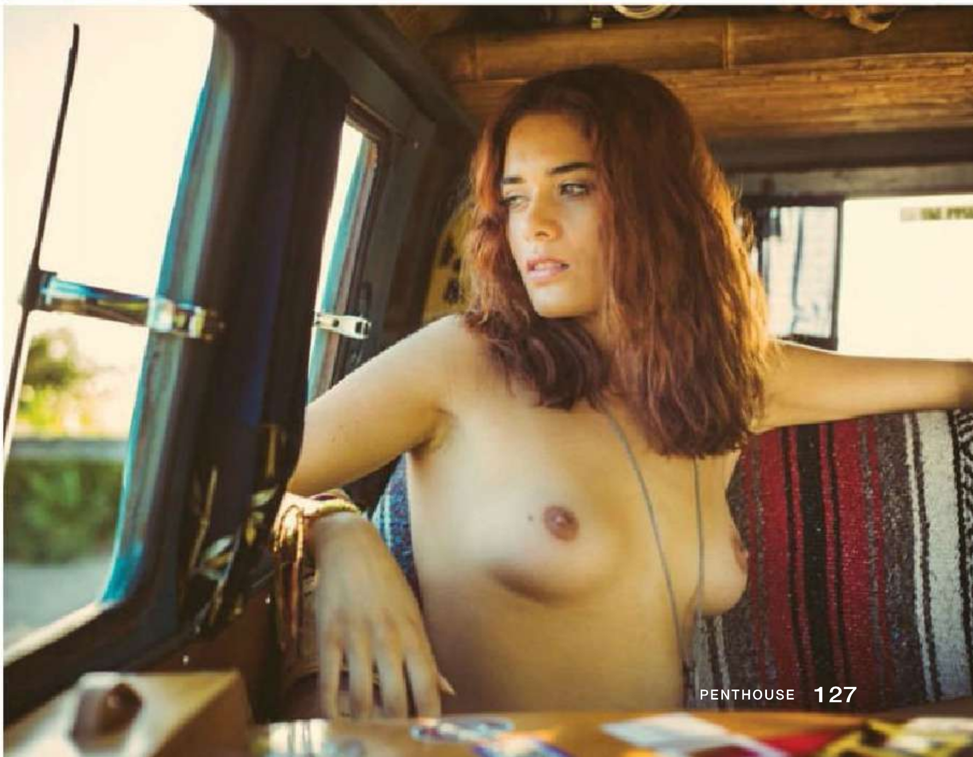
Traveling sets the soul on fire. It ignites this mysterious instinct which we follow through without knowing the strength or endurance of the wick. A flame is dispersed with these majestic colors; it looms through endless situations that we call journeys. And a present taste of reality hits the tongue as we unlock the powers of love, and lust that wander through our thoughts. We cast spells on our days, scream like children down mountaintops and sing to our astronomy, praying for our moments to last endlessly. – *Kahli Morrison*

Photography: Mick Jones Model: Kahli Morrison Hair & Beauty: Holly Anderson



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URINALS AND BUTTS

TIGHT BUTTS DRIVE ME NUTS TACOS

BY DAVE CARNIE

WE were in one of those bars that have lots of knick-knacks and gewgaws all over the place. Stupid hats left by stupid people, stupid dollar bills with stupid shit written on them pinned to the stupid ceiling, and of course stupid license plates everywhere. The California plate across from me read, “TBDMNT.” The license plate frame around it said, “DO TIGHT BUTTS DRIVE YOU NUTS?” My first thoughts were in regards to the author of the plate: what kind of a man would put that on his car? Seems like a strange way to introduce oneself to the world. This guy really likes tight butts. He’s the tight butt guy. I wondered if his mother had seen it. I wondered if his mother had a tight butt. Also: has it “worked?” Like, “Oh, what a coincidence, I have a tight butt…”

Even more confusing to me were the letters on the actual plate itself: what does “TBDMNT” mean? I presume it’s an acronym for, “Tight Butts Drive Me Nuts.” But then the question is what does the T stand for? Is that part of “nuts,” and, if so, why is that word represented by two letters? Or does the T stand for an entirely different word, like, “Tight Butts Drive Me Nuts Tonight”? Or, “Tight Butts Drive Me Nuts Tacos”? Perhaps it’s a mantra, “Tight Butts Drive Me Nuts, Tight…”

TIGHT BUTTS BELONG TO MODELS, ASIANS, AND LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS. I PREFER A WOMAN WITH A BIG BACKYARD

But I’m avoiding the question being asked of me: “Do tight butts drive you nuts?” No. They do not. Tight butts do not drive me nuts. I’m a fan of big butts. Tight butts belong to models, Asians, and little boys and girls. I prefer a woman with a big backyard.

“Hey, Tania?” I said to my wife sitting beside me. “Do tight butts drive you nuts?”

“No,” she said simply. “Nobody’s butt interests me ever.”

The license plate on the wall next to Tight Butts said “DOODOO.” It was from New Hampshire. “Live Free, Or Doo-Doo.” And that reminded me that I had to make pee-pee doo-doo.

The bathroom in this kooky bar was unusually large and boasted three urinals. I’m always fascinated by this arrangement because I can determine where the next person who walks in is going to pee. If I pee in the urinal on the far left, he’ll pee in the one on the far right. If I pee in the one on the far right, he’ll pee in the one on the far left. Of course if there are already two of us there, the next person will usually prefer to pee in the stall rather than have his dick in his hand while standing shoulder to shoulder between two other men. And while I’m in possession of this knowledge, I’m not sure what to do with it. It seems like I should be able to capitalize on this phenomenon in some way, but the only thing I can think of doing with it is to booby trap the end toilet so that it destroys my enemy. (I didn’t know I had an enemy until just now.) I booby trap the urinal on the far right, so that when my enemy enters the restroom and sees me peeing on the far left, he’ll take the compromised urinal suspecting nothing, and then—BLAMMO! I outfitted the urinal with a bomb that is activated when urine hits it. “But you’re just one toilet away? You’ll get taken out by porcelain shrapnel!” I know, I thought of that, too: no I won’t because my booby trap is one of those precision bombs that only blows dicks off. With my luck, though, I’d forget which toilet I sabotaged and blow my own dick off.

As I stood there peeing in the urinal on the far left and trying to imagine the car the TBDMNT’s license plate was on—mustaches and Camaros came to mind—someone entered the bathroom. “Oh man, this dude’s gonna get it,” I thought. “Far right urinal. Dick bomb. Castration.”

While I’m opposed to all of these squeamish, homophobic bathroom rules—I feel we should be fostering a more welcoming sense of community in the men’s room—even I am slightly taken aback when someone doesn’t observe them. Not only did this dude step up to the middle urinal right next to me, but (gasp!) he also started talking to me. Da fuck?

“I turn 58 in ten minutes,” he said.

We both had our dicks in our hands and apparently it was 11:50 pm. I took an immediate liking to him. Middle urinal, talking, dude was breaking all the rules. Even at 57 he was a total renegade.

I said, “Oh, so you’re a Sagittarius?” It was early December.

“Yep,” he said.

“Me too,” I said. We had so much in common. Peeing. Sagittarians.

And then there was a pause. Silence, save for our ceramic splattering streams. I didn’t dare look at him. But it was I who broke the silence.

“So which cock are you pissing with,” I asked, “your horse cock, or your human cock?”

It took him a beat to run that question around in his mind, but when it landed, he leaned forward laughing, resting his forehead on his forearm across the top of the urinal.

“Human,” he said simply. And then we were friends. At least I think we were friends after that, but I haven’t seen him since.

TERA PATRICK

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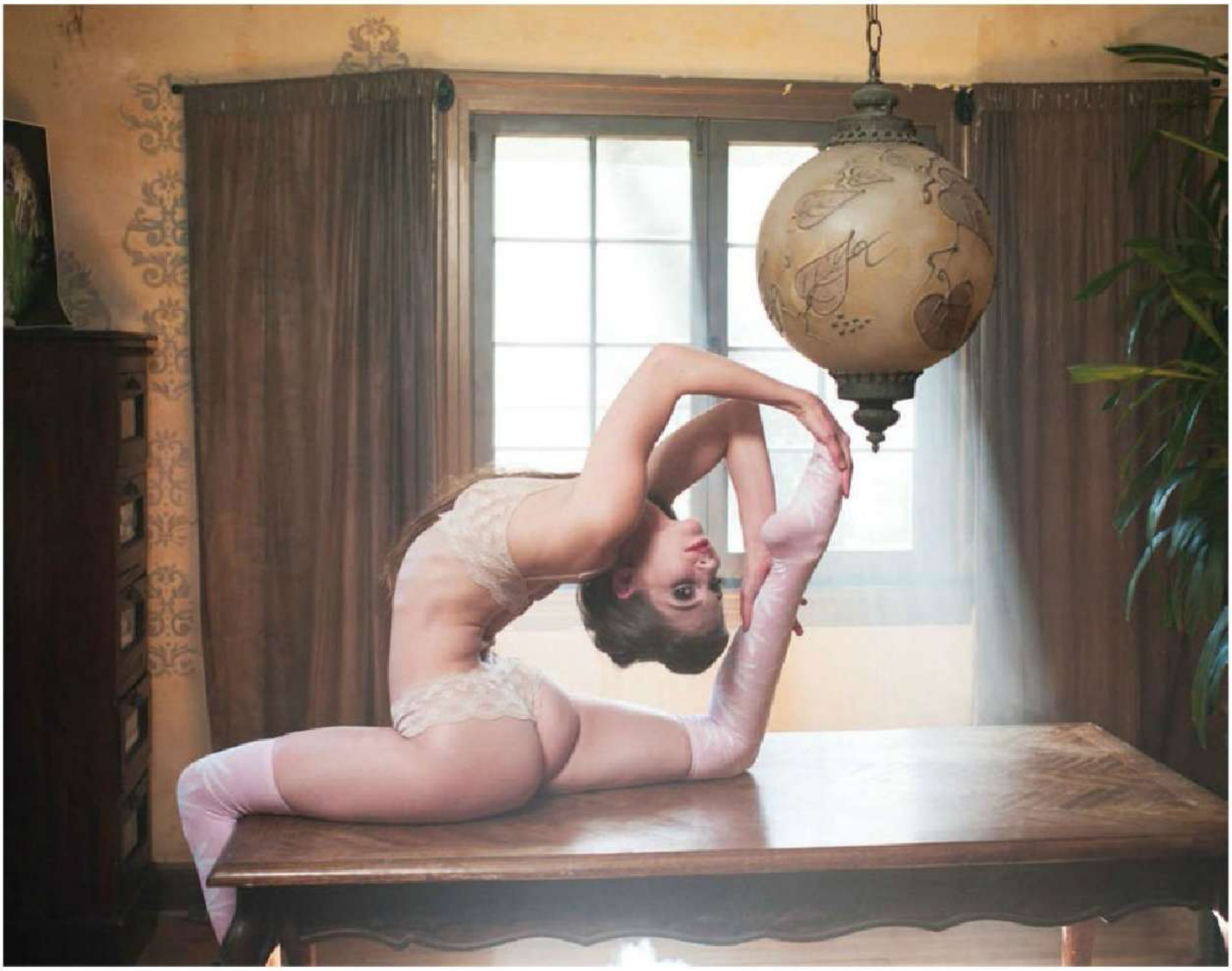

HUF